

# Jordan Times

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## Turkey picks up kidnap lead

ANKARA, Turkey (AP) — Security forces stepped up their search Sunday for five kidnapped Westerners in eastern Turkey following an anonymous telephone call that they would be released soon. Local sources reported that fresh units arrived on Saturday to reinforce 3,000 soldiers and police commandos conducting the search, backed by helicopters. The search for the three Americans, one Briton and one Australian has been concentrated in rugged Bingöl province, where they were abducted at a Kurdish guerrilla roadblock on Aug. 31. The five had been travelling as part of their search for Noah's Ark, which the Bible says came to rest on Mount Ararat in the present-day eastern Turkey. Citing unidentified military officials, the sources said Necati Özen, commander of the security forces in the southeast, had arrived to supervise the search. Security forces had identified the guerrilla group which kidnapped the Westerners; they said. The Istanbul newspaper Hürriyet said a man called it on Saturday night, claiming to speak for the Kurdish Labour Party (PKK). The caller said the five were well "and will be released shortly either in Bingöl or adjoining Mus provinces."

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## Iranian envoy due here this week

AMMAN (Petra) — A senior Iranian official is due in Amman next week to deliver to His Majesty King Hussein a letter from Iranian President Hashemi Rafsanjani. The official, an advisor to the Iranian foreign minister and director of the Arab World department at the Iranian foreign ministry, Hisham Mubammad Kousar, will also deliver a message from the chairman of the Islamic Shura Council of Iran to speaker of the Lower House of Parliament Abdul Latif Arabiyat.

## German minister arrives tomorrow

AMMAN (J.T.) — German Minister for Economic Cooperation Carl-Dieter Spranger is due here Tuesday on a three-day visit to Jordan at the invitation of the Jordanian government. Mr. Spranger, who will be accompanied by an official delegation and a team of German journalists, is expected to discuss with Jordanian government ministers scope of bilateral cooperation in economic and agricultural fields. Mr. Spranger will be visiting Jordan in the course of a tour which will also take him to Yemen and Syria.

## Cabinet extends grace period for returnees

AMMAN (Petra) — The Cabinet has decided to give Jordanian returnees until the end of February 1992 to license their cars and pay the customs duty on them. The decision states that those who pay in cash before the end of February will be exempted from 15 per cent of the customs duty and other fees. It also allows those who cannot pay in cash to pay in monthly instalments provided that they pay 25 per cent of the whole amount in advance and pay the rest in 24 instalments. The Cabinet also decided to exempt Jordanian returnees from paying a fine imposed on imports from countries other than that of origin.

## Abul Ragheb begins Syria visit

DAMASCUS (Petra) — Minister of Industry, Trade and Supply Ali Abul Ragheb arrived in Damascus Sunday on a several-day official visit to Syria. Mr. Abul Ragheb will visit the Jordanian pavilion at Damascus International Fair and hold talks with his Syrian counterpart Mohammad Al Inadi and senior Syrian officials on bilateral relations and means of enhancing economic cooperation. Mr. Abul Ragheb is heading an official delegation, grouping the Ministry of Supply secretary general, the deputy governor of the Central Bank of Jordan and the director general of the Civil Servants Consumers' corporation.

## Quayle in Africa

PRAIA, Cape Verde (R) — U.S. Vice-President Dan Quayle, starting a five-nation Africa tour, Sunday fledged more aid to the West African archipelago of Cape Verde to support its young democracy. Mr. Quayle met Cape Verdean President Antonio Mascarenhas on the island of Sal and was signing two protocols for new aid worth \$4 million officials said. Three million dollars were for food aid and \$1 million to support democracy in the nine inhabited islands which lie 600 kilometres off Senegal.

## Yemen appeals for help to combat cholera

SANAA (R) — Yemen has appealed for international help to combat an outbreak of cholera in several parts of the country, a senior health official said Sunday. Deputy Health Minister Awad Baniatuf told parliament the epidemic was spreading because of deteriorating medical hygiene in the impoverished country, the official SABA news agency reported. Officials said Mr. Baniatuf was summoned to a special session of parliament after he told a local newspaper last week that as many as 71 people had contracted the disease.

## Palestinian representation must be decided before peace conference — Regent Crown Prince welcomes Bush's move to delay Israeli loan guarantee bid

By Jamal Halaby  
The Associated Press

AMMAN — Crown Prince Hassan said Sunday a Middle East peace conference scheduled for next month could be delayed because of the unresolved issue of who will represent the Palestinians. Prince Hassan, the Regent, also told the Associated Press in an interview that the Bush administration's attempt to delay giving Israel a \$10 billion bank loan guarantee was a positive indication of the U.S. stance in the Arab-Israeli dispute.

"Obviously there is talk today of the possibility of delaying the conference... related to speculation over the important participation of Palestinians," Prince Hassan said. "If there is no Palestinian participation, would it be plausible, would it be credible to hold a peace conference in October?" he asked.

U.S. President George Bush said last week that turmoil in the Soviet Union could delay the convening of the Arab-Israeli peace conference, co-sponsored by Washington and Moscow.

But Egyptian and Israeli leaders have said that the parity should be held on time.

Prince Hassan, said Palestinians were serious about participating in the peace process. But they have not yet announced the form of their participation in the conference.

The 450-member Palestine National Council, is scheduled to convene a meeting in Algeria later this month. An announcement on Palestinian participation in the peace conference was expected to come at that meeting.

King Hussein has said that he was willing to form a joint delegation consisting of Palestinian and Jordanian officials to peace talks with Israel, if the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) accepted such a formula.

King Hussein said that Jordanians will not speak on behalf of the Palestinians and that Palestinians will have to pick their own representatives.

The United States favours the joint delegation, but prefers the participation of Palestinian representatives not connected to the PLO, which is considered by most Arabs as the voice of the world's five million Palestinians.

Israel refuses to deal with the PLO, which it claims is a "terrorist" group.

In the interview, Prince Hassan praised the efforts of U.S. Secretary of State James Baker in arranging the conference. He said Jordan was still awaiting assurances it has requested from the U.S. administration regarding the implementation of United Nations Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338.

Resolution 242 calls on Israel to withdraw from the West Bank, Gaza Strip and the Golan Heights, which the Jewish state occupied during the 1967 war. It also recognises the right of Israel to exist within secure borders.

Resolution 338, passed after the 1973 Arab-Israeli war, calls for the implementation of Resolution 242.

Commenting on the return to Jordan of 300,000 Palestinians and Jordanians expelled from Kuwait, Prince Hassan reiterated that they were welcome in the Kingdom and "we have never in this country allowed ourselves to discriminate in terms of place of origin or different population groups."

Of the Bush administration's attempt to delay action on a loan guarantee to house Soviet Jews in Israel, Prince Hassan said, "I think it is clearly a positive indication."

"To find Israel eligible for \$10 billion in advance of participation in the peace process is alarming indeed," he said.

He said at the rate applied for aid to Israel for Jewish immigrants, Jordan should get \$15 billion for housing the 300,000 refugees from Kuwait.

He said anyone claiming the returnees could be a disruptive force is "fishing in very murky waters and they are attempting to go as far as, God forbid, Lebanonising the situation in Jordan."

The Crown Prince was referring to speculation that the returning Palestinians, many of the unemployed youths, could be a source of instability in the Kingdom.

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## Renewed violence hits South Africa

JOHANNESBURG (R) — Violence flared anew in South Africa Sunday, claiming at least 25 lives and marring a delicate peace drive under which black and white leaders are due to sign a pact next Saturday. Police said 23 people were killed when a crowd of some 300 followers of the Zulu-based Inkatha Freedom Party (IFP) was attacked on its way to a hostel residents' rally in the black township of Thokozha, east of Johannesburg. Nelson Mandela's African National Congress (ANC) condemned the attack, appealing for calm, and its political foe Inkatha denounced it as barbaric. A Thokozha civic association official, Sam Ntuli, called for an investigation into the army which, he said, had undertaken to escort people to the rally. "We wonder why they could not protect the IFP supporters. We call for an immediate investigation into their behaviour." Two further deaths were reported later in an attack on a hostel south of the city, in which the apparent targets were Xhosa-speaking people. Police were investigating the possibility that these were in retaliation for the Thokozha killings, the South African Press Association quoted a spokesman as saying.

## Priority is Palestine solution — Crown Prince

Special from Antalya

HIS ROYAL HIGHNESS Crown Prince Hassan has said that the priorities for peace and stability in the Middle East rest with achieving a breakthrough in resolving the Palestinian-Israeli conflict.

This will pave the way for a regional process of security and cooperation in priority areas of arms, energy and development, the Crown Prince said in an address delivered on his behalf by His Royal Highness Prince Abdullah Ben Al Hussein.

The address was delivered at the Second International Antalya Conference in Turkey organised by the Turkish Atlantic Treaty Association between Sept. 5 and 6.

Following are major excerpts from Prince Hassan's address: "There are some who consider that the problems of the Middle East are too daunting to allow for such a process of security and cooperation as the CSCME. But it ought to be stressed that if there is a will there will be a way. The challenges facing political union in Europe are quite formidable. But this has not deterred the community from pursuing that aim including the controversial objective

of a European defence policy. We all saw how swiftly the recent Gulf war transformed the southern flank of NATO into its southern front.

"Whether the Western European Union (WEU) becomes a 'bridge' between the community and NATO or whether it becomes a 'European pillar' within the alliance remains to be seen. It is not inconceivable that it might become both. A German diplomat has recently remarked that 'we refuse to choose between Atlantic security and European integration for we want both.' In the same spirit and relating to the allegedly insurmountable problems of the Middle East, Palestinian self-determination and the security of Israel are not mutually exclusive.

"In essence, our region faces the challenge of reconciling security in the often conflicting perceptions and aspirations of the diverse peoples in our area. Within that context it has been rightly observed that the primary focus of security should be people and not states, nor the elite, the affluent or the more powerful.

"In talking about people, I firmly believe in the trilateral approach based on democracy, security, prosperity for our region. The politics and economics of despair have to be replaced by the political economy of peace and progress. Extremism and radicalism should be tackled by

(Continued on page 5)

## Israeli army seals off West Bank and Gaza

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — The Israeli occupation authorities, in an effort to stem resistance activities, barred Palestinians entering Israel from the occupied territories during the two-day Jewish new year holiday beginning at sunset Sunday.

A police spokesman said Palestinians from the West Bank and Gaza Strip "will not be allowed to get into Israel except in a very few cases and then we will check very carefully."

The Israeli army said earlier Sunday it would not restrict Palestinians' movements during the holiday.

But police, saying they were concerned about the possibility of Arab attacks on Israelis, decided independently from the army to bar Palestinians.

The army has "jurisdiction" in the occupied territories but police control the area within the "green line."

A police spokesman said there had been a "misunderstanding" between the army and police ministries.

The bodies of two Palestinians suspected of collaborating with the Israeli authorities were found Sunday near the Nuseirat refugee camp in Gaza, Palestinian sources said.

The body of an unidentified young woman was found in a girls' high school, and the body of 27-year-old Hamed Abu Ali, kidnapped Friday by masked men, was discovered just outside the camp, sources said.

Near the West Bank town of Jenin, a soldier shot and wounded a young woman who tried to stab him, the army said.

Since the Palestinian uprising against Israeli occupation began in December 1987, at least 394 suspected collaborators have been killed by fellow Palestinians, according to a Reuters count.

At least 823 Palestinians were killed by Israelis during the same period, and 67 Israelis died in the violence, according to Reuters.

The Islamic Resistance Movement (Hamas) distributed a leaflet Sunday condemning the "Zionist-American conspiracy to liquidate our cause" and calling on the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) not to participate in Middle East peace talks.

"We urge our brothers in the PLO to give up all their projects of surrender, like the alleged peace conference," the leaflet said.

Three petrol bombs were thrown at the home of a Jewish family in Arab Jerusalem, Saturday night, police said. No injuries were reported.

Mr. Siad Barre and his forces remain holed up in his southwestern home region of Gedo.

Fighting has continued sporadically in Mogadishu, and central and southern Somalia since Mr. Siad Barre's ouster from the capital.

The current fighting in the capital involves rival factions of the central Somali Hawiye clan from which the USC draws its support. The groups include Mr. Ali Mahdi's Abagel sub-clan and the Habar Gidir sub-clan which includes Gen. Aidid's forces.

Mr. Ali Mahdi was named interim president following Mr. Siad Barre's ouster and was named president for a two-year term in early August in a ceremony in which Gen. Aidid assumed the party's leadership.

However, the Habar Gidir have never been happy with Mr. Ali Mahdi's rule. Although Mr. Ali Mahdi carries the title of president, he in fact rules little beyond his home in Mogadishu.

## Iraq ready to pump 1.18m bpd through pipelines

BAGHDAD (R) — Iraq will be able to pump 1.18 million barrels of oil per day (bpd) through pipelines across Turkey once the U.N. allows it to resume exports, the head of the country's Northern Petroleum Company (NPC) was quoted Sunday as saying.

NPC Director-General Ghazi Sabir told the ruling Baath Party newspaper, Al Thawra that twin lines carrying oil across Turkey to export jetties in the Mediterranean would be restored to full capacity of around 1.5 million bpd by the end of March.

The United Nations imposed punitive sanctions

against Iraq following its invasion of Kuwait on Aug. 2 last year. Only basic food and medicines are exempt but Iraq says it does not have the hard currency to meet its needs.

More than eight million barrels of oil are still in the 980-kilometre pipelines and 12 tanks in Turkey's Mediterranean port of Yumurtalik hold 1.58 million barrels of Iraqi oil, Turkey said Friday.

Mr. Sabir said that the first stage of repairs had been carried out to pipelines linking Iraq's northern and southern oilfields and oil from the Basra refinery in southern Iraq had been flowing northwards since July 25.

Iraq's oil industry was badly damaged in the U.S.-led Gulf war which ended late in February and in the subsequent failed Shiite rebellion in southern Iraq. Before the war it was one of the world's top three oil exporters.

The NPC runs all petroleum operations in northern and central Iraq, while those in the south are controlled by its sister Southern Petroleum Company.

Baghdad has rejected strings attached to a Security Council resolution which approved its request to sell \$1.6 billion worth of oil on condition Iraq did not have direct access to the proceeds.

The U.N. said some \$700 million of the funds should go towards war reparations and U.N. costs.

Iraq says it needs all the money urgently to meet basic food and medical needs over the next six months.

U.N. Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar has suggested raising the ceiling to about \$2.4 billion but the conditions are still attached.

Oil Minister Usama Al Hiti said Saturday: "We are ready now to produce and export more than one million barrels a day in case we get permission and the sanctions are lifted."

Iraq's Communications and Transport Minister

Abdul Sattar Al Mu'ni has said the 2.4 billion figure would not meet his country's needs.

"Whatever the size or amount of oil that will be sold, this amount will not be enough to satisfy requirements," he told Reuters.

He pledged all the money raised from any sale would go towards humanitarian needs and none would be spent on the military.

Iraq's economy is under severe strain from the effects of the trade embargo, with the price of basic foodstuffs soaring, a critical shortage of drugs and a widespread lack of spare parts to revive its industrial sector.

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## Israel will undermine peace talks — Velayati

ACCRA (R) — Israeli intransigence is bound to scupper a Middle East peace conference planned for next month, Iranian Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati said on a visit to Ghana for a Non-Aligned Movement meeting.

Mr. Velayati said the U.S.-backed plan was based on two United Nations resolutions upholding Palestinians' right to their own territory.

"Israel has rejected these two resolutions and they have said they are not ready to withdraw from the West Bank, the Gaza Strip and the Golan Heights. So what are they going to talk about?" Mr. Velayati told reporters late Saturday.

"We don't think that they can have real progress for the implementation of these peace plans."

The conference, spearheaded by the United States in the aftermath of the Gulf war, would bring together all the major players in the Arab-Israeli conflict. It is expected to take place next month but further details have not yet been fixed.

The Egyptian and Syrian foreign ministers, Amr Musa and Farouq Al Sharaa, pledged full support for the talks earlier this week in Accra but said success would hinge on Israel giving up occupied territory in return for peace.

Mr. Velayati sounded a more optimistic note on the Middle East peace crisis, saying U.N. Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar would visit Tehran soon for further talks on a proposed global exchange of up to 10 Western hostages for hundreds of Arabs detained by Israel or its Lebanese militia allies.

Mr. Velayati said Iran was

keen to see progress because it was the first country to suffer hostage-taking when five Iranians were seized by pro-Israeli Lebanese in 1982. The men were still missing and may have been transferred to Israel, he said.

Security sources in Lebanon have said the men are dead but Iran insists they are still alive.

"Different groups in Lebanon, and also the government of Israel, are involved in the hostage-taking," Mr. Velayati said. "We think that a collective cooperation under the supervision of the secretary-general... can solve this problem."

Mr. Velayati repeated Iran's support for U.N. sanctions against Iraq and said it would not return Iraqi military aircraft to Baghdad without international approval. Iraq flew the planes to Iran when U.S.-led coalition forces attacked early this year to drive Baghdad's forces from Kuwait.

The Iranian minister said Tehran was open to multilateral arms control in the Middle East, provided that this included Israel.

"We are ready to accept any kind of arms control in our part of the world, without any discrimination," he said. "We deeply believe in disarmament."

He accused major arms-exporting countries of hypocrisy in calling for peace while continuing to export arms to the region for financial profit.

Mr. Velayati arrived in the Yemeni capital Sanaa Sunday, Iranian radio said.

The radio, monitored by the British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC), said he would hold talks with his Yemeni counterpart, Abdul Karim Al Iryani.

## Rafsanjani accepts Saudi invitation

NICOSIA (Agencies) — Iran's President Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani has accepted an invitation to visit Saudi Arabia, the Iranian news agency IRNA said.

He will be the first Iranian president to visit the kingdom since the 1979 Islamic revolution. The two states are rapidly improving relations after years of hostility.

IRNA said visiting Saudi Education Minister Sheikh Abdul Aziz Al Abdullah delivered the invitation to Mr. Rafsanjani, along with a message from King Fahd on regional security and "ways of vindicating the denied rights of the Palestinian people."

Mr. Abdul Aziz said the king praised Iran's "very good cooperation" during the Haj pilgrimage at Mecca this year.

More than 400 people, mostly Iranian pilgrims, were killed at Mecca in 1987 in clashes between Saudi Security forces and demonstrators. Iran boycotted the Haj for three years in protest at restrictions on the number of pilgrims it could send.

Saudi Arabia broke relations with Iran in 1988, citing "hostile acts." Ties were restored in March.

IRNA said Mr. Rafsanjani expressed concern about the abuse of Palestinian rights "by global arrogance" and urged Muslim leaders to safeguard them.

Iran has vehemently opposed the convening of a peace conference in October between Israel and the Arab countries, whereas Riyadh might attend the conference as an observer.

## Gulf war pollution could hit humans who eat sick sheep, experts assert

BAHRAIN (R) — Gulf war pollution has made sheep sick in the Arabian Peninsula and humans who eat the meat could be at risk, environmentalists said Sunday.

Mohammad Alim Mian, of a three-member Gulf team sponsored by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), said vegetation over 6,000-square kilometres of Kuwait and Saudi Arabia had been smeared by oily soot from burning Kuwaiti wells.

Sheep had fallen ill after eating polluted plants close to damaged oilfields and there was a chance people who ate their meat would also be affected, he said.

"We saw camels that had become sick and sheep whose wool had turned grey from soot. We think that there will be an impact on the meat of these animals," Mr. Mian said.

Marine life along Saudi Arabia's northeast coast has been destroyed by oil spilled during the six-week war which ended with the U.S.-led allies which fought Iraq in the Gulf war which ended in February.

A 1,000-kilometre long plume of smoke belching from Kuwaiti oilwells set ablaze in the war has blanketed the area and dramatically lowered temperatures.

Mr. Mian said the area near Saudi Arabia's border town of Hafji had been hit hardest by pollution but vegetation as far south as the industrial port of Jubail, several hundred kilometres away, had also been affected.

Plants in Kuwait, Saudi Arabia

and Iraq were uprooted and blown away after tanks and other heavy military vehicles ploughed in the desert during the war, he said. Sandstorms would worsen as a result.

"The military activity has churned up the soil and made it loose — the area is already prone to dust storms and we can expect to see these increase in the future," he said.

Health officials in Bahrain say that during May, one of the windiest months of the year, there was twice as much dust in the air as during the same month one year ago.

Mr. Mian said giant lakes of oil which spilled from damaged Kuwaiti oilwells might have seeped into underground reservoirs of water tapped for drinking and irrigation.

In Iraq, wheat and barley crops died after the water table rose, saturating the soil, he said. Loss of power during the war had stopped pumps draining farm-lands.

"Lots of land which was under irrigation in Iraq has become waterlogged and salty — this killed the wheat and barley crops which were growing there," he said.

Mr. Mian said the UNEP team — which carried out a one-month survey in Iraq, Saudi Arabia and Kuwait — was unable to obtain an estimate of how much of Iraq's crops had been affected.

Further studies were needed to assess the long-term environmental impact of the Gulf war, he added.

## Greenpeace to survey Kuwait pollution

KUWAIT (Agencies) — Greenpeace activists have arrived in Kuwait to survey the shores and atmosphere for pollution in the emirate, which is still covered with grey smoke from hundreds of burning oil wells set alight during the Gulf war.

"We will look at the marine pollution aspects and the atmospheric problems that are obvious in the area," Paul Horsman, coordinator of a two-month Gulf study, told a news conference on board the ship Greenpeace.

"The burning oil wells in Kuwait are producing atmospheric pollution over a wide area as smoke and soot are spread downwind of the fires," the environmental pressure group said in a statement.

"While much effort has been devoted to modelling the spread of the pollution on computers and analysing the contents of the smoke plume, much more ground level monitoring is required."

More than 350 of the 732 Kuwaiti oil wells torched during the war are still burning.

One of six scientists aboard the Greenpeace said that with the approaching winter, smoke from the wells will get worse. "From the ground there is no pressure at the moment, but when the wind and pressure change... it's going to be worse," he said.

Kuwaiti officials expect that international firefighters will cap all the burning wells by March. The Greenpeace ship docked at Kuwait's Shuwaikh port on Friday after carrying out surveys in Bahrain and Saudi Arabia.

## MIDDLE EAST NEWS IN BRIEF

### Iraq: Circulation of fake money under control

BAGHDAD (R) — Iraq said Sunday it had nearly contained an attempt by "foreign parties" to sabotage its economy through flooding the country with forged banknotes. Iraq's Defence Ministry newspaper Al Qadisiyah quoted the governor of the central bank as saying the bank, the Finance Ministry and the security forces were in the final stages of curbing the circulation of fake money. Tareq Taleh Al Tukmachi repeated Iraqi charges that foreign countries were behind the plot. But he did not give names. Last month, Al Qadisiyah accused Turkey, Iran, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and Syria of taking part in the "conspiracy" using Iraq's Kurdish-controlled north to circulate forged dinars. It said Iran and Turkey were collecting 25 Iraqi banknotes issued before the invasion of Kuwait and sending them to Saudi Arabia to be destroyed and replaced with counterfeit currency. Tehran and Riyadh denied the accusation. Mr. Tukmachi said the "foreign-engineered conspiracy... aimed at shaking the trust in Iraq's legal banknotes..." Iraq introduced new 25, 50 and 100 dinar banknotes when prices soared shortly after its invasion of Kuwait on Aug. 2 1990. Many Iraqis prefer the old 25 dinar bills despite assurances from Finance Minister Majed Abed Jassar that the new money is as good as the old one.

### Mali denies military against Tuaregs

ALGIERS (R) — Malian Foreign Minister Tiedje Dram denied Saturday that his country was attacking Tuareg rebels, as Algeria has claimed. "Tuareg refugees have come to Algeria in recent months but it has nothing to do with recent developments in the area, where there has not been any military activity," Mr. Dram said after meeting President Chadli Bendjedid. Algerian Interior Minister Abdul Latif Rahal said recently 2,000 Tuareg left the Algerian desert towns of Tamanrasset and Adrar. Mr. Rahal urged Mali to respect the autonomy accord signed with the Tuaregs in Tamanrasset in January after Algerian mediation. Mr. Dram said Mali would honour the accord and discuss it at a conference on the Tuareg question on Nov. 15. "Mali is quite in favour of a scrupulous respect for the Tamanrasset accord. We have organised a withdrawal of the army from 12 bases in the north of the country and freed prisoners. The armed forces observe a ceasefire. Demilitarisation of the north has begun and is continuing," he said.

### Afghanistan recognises Baltic states

ISLAMABAD (R) — The Soviet-backed government of Afghanistan has recognised the breakaway Baltic republics of Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia. "The state and people of the Republic of Afghanistan sincerely wishes success of the peoples of these republics towards democracy, construction and progress of their countries," the official Balkh news agency said Sunday. The Afghan government, which relies on Soviet supplies of arms, food and fuel to sustain its war against guerrillas, announced recognition after Moscow had accepted to sovereignty of the Baltic states.

### Man batters Cyprus radio station

NICOSIA (R) — An irate demolition contractor attacked state radio headquarters with his bulldozer after receiving 300 telephone calls a day from fans wanting to talk on a chat show. Riot police, called by security guards after a bulldozer thundered through the main gate at 1 a.m. Sunday, found Christakis Karamanos, 43, trying to flatten the newsroom of Cyprus Broadcasting Corporation (CYBC). Two policemen were slightly hurt in a struggle to arrest Mr. Karamanos. CYBC said its newsroom suffered only minor damage. Relatives of Mr. Karamanos said his telephone number was similar to CYBC's popular chatline station. He finally snapped after being called day and night for months by Greek-Cypriots wanting to talk on the radio. The telephone company had ignored his pleas for a new number.

### Emir of Kuwait meets Sheikh Zayed


BAHRAIN (AP) — The Emir of Kuwait, Sheikh Jaber Al Ahmad Al Sabah, was in Abu Dhabi Sunday for talks with the leader of the United Arab Emirates (UAE) who is on the eve of a state visit to France. UAE President Sheikh Zayed Ben Sultan Al Nahayan is heading to Paris at the invitation of French President Francois Mitterrand. Gulf regional security arrangements are expected to be a top item in their talks. In a scene-setting interview for the visit, published in Abu Dhabi Saturday, Mitterrand offered to enter into bilateral security arrangements with individual Gulf countries if requested. Mr. Mitterrand's statement followed the U.S. announcement that an 10-year security pact with Kuwait may be followed by similar individual agreements with Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, Qatar, Oman and the UAE. The six Arab countries are members of the Gulf Cooperation Council alliance. They are all armed by the West but the UAE among them has the closest military ties with France.

### Moroccans seize 3.5 tonnes of hashish

RABAT (R) — Moroccan customs officials seized 3.5 tonnes of hashish from a truck bound for Spain, the semi-official daily Le Matin reported Sunday. The drug, hidden inside cartons of blue jeans, was found after officers inspected the truck in the northern port of Tangier.

### Quake of 4.6 on Richter reported in Iran

NICOSIA (AP) — An earthquake registering 4.6 on the Richter scale struck Sunday in the Iranian province of Semnan, the official Islamic Republic News Agency reported. IRNA gave the location of the quake as about 200 kilometres southeast of the capital of Tehran. It said the tremor came at 0421 GMT. No reports of casualties or damage were received, the agency said. The Richter scale is a gauge of energy released by an earthquake as measured by the ground motion recorded on a seismograph. Every increase of one number, say from 5.5 to 6.5, means the ground motion is 10 times greater. A quake measuring four on the scale can cause moderate damage, and one of five can cause considerable damage.



## Iraqi Jordanian Land Transport Co.

### TENDER NO. (10/91)

### SALE OF USED TRUCK - TRACTORS (IN GOOD WORKING CONDITIONS)

The Iraqi Jordanian Land Transport Company intends to sell (105) used Steyr truck tractors manufactured in 1981/1982.

**RELATED INFORMATION:**

1. Custom duties unpaid,
2. All - truck tractors are in good working condition
3. Offers can be submitted to buy one or all truck - tractors
4. Truck - tractors can be checked and inspected at the company's garages in Aqaba, Jordan, starting September 10, 1991.
5. Copies of terms, conditions, and technical specifications can be bought for the sum of (100) Jordanian dinars (JD), non-refundable, from the company's main offices in Amman, between 4th and 5th Circles, Jabal Amman, during official working hours (0800-1430), starting from (11-9-1991).
6. Closing date for submitting offers is (10-10-1991). (1200 Hrs).
7. Address:

**P.O.Box 5134, Amman/Jordan**  
**Phone No.: 677680, 672502, 672509**  
**Tlx.No.: 22237**  
**Fax No.: 602870**

**Dr. Shaker Mahadin**  
**Director General**



## Iraqi Jordanian Land Transport Co.

### TENDER NO. (9/91)

### SALE OF USED TRUCK - TRACTORS

The Iraqi Jordanian Land Transport Company intends to sell (82) used M.A.N truck-tractors manufactured in 1981/1982.

**RELATED INFORMATION:**

1. Custom duties unpaid,
2. Offers can be submitted to buy one or all truck - tractors
3. Truck - tractors can be checked and inspected at the company's garages in Aqaba, Jordan, starting September 10, 1991.
4. Copies of terms, conditions, and technical specifications can be bought for the sum of (100) Jordanian dinars (JD), non-refundable, from the company's main offices in Amman, between 4th and 5th Circles, Jabal Amman, during official working hours (0800-1430), starting from (11-9-1991).
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**Dr. Shaker Mahadin**  
**Director General**

JORDAN TELEVISION	
Tel: 77311-19	
<b>PROGRAMME TWO</b>	
18:00	Documentary
19:00	News in French
19:15	Weekly Sports Magazine
19:30	News in Hebrew
20:00	News in Arabic
20:30	Surgical Spirit
21:10	Murder she wrote
22:00	News in English
22:20	Over My Dead Body
<b>PRAYER TIMES</b>	
04:51	Fajr
05:10	(Sunrise) Dhuhr
12:33	Dhuhr
16:06	'Asr
18:56	Maghrib
20:15	Isha
<b>CHURCHES</b>	
St. Mary of Nazareth Church Switfish Tel. 810740	
Assistance of God Church, Tel. 637285	
St. Joseph Church Tel. 624990	
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637440	
De la Salle Church Tel. 661757	
Terrence Church Tel. 622466	
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 623541	
Anglican Church Tel. 623363, Tel.	

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR	
<b>USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS</b>	
<b>NIGHT DUTY</b>	
AMMAN:	
Dr. Basim Qaddoumi	646024
Dr. Mohammad Shawish	638578
Dr. Farouq Noor	786680
Dr. Issam Al Azam	892504
Firas pharmacy	661912
Petrows pharmacy	776336
Al Aqsa pharmacy	637055
Natrouk pharmacy	623672
Al Salam pharmacy	636730
Yacoub pharmacy	644945
Shmeisani pharmacy	637660
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## HOME NEWS IN BRIEF

## King Hussein awards medal to ambassador

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein Saturday conferred Al Istiklal Medal of the First Order on the outgoing Qatari ambassador to Jordan in appreciation of his services while serving in Jordan. The medal was presented to the ambassador by Foreign Minister Abdullah Ensour at a banquet held in his honour.

## Crown Prince congratulates N. Korea

AMMAN (Petra) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, Sunday sent a cable to North Korean President Kim Il Sung congratulating him in his own name and on behalf of the Jordanian people and government on his country's national day. He wished the Korean president continued good health and happiness and the Korean people further progress and prosperity.

## Royal Court thanks public for support

AMMAN (Petra) — The Royal Court Sunday issued a statement in which it voiced thanks for and appreciation of public and official institutions for their condolences over the death of Her Royal Highness Princess Fahrunisa Zeid, who passed away last Thursday. Princess Fahrunisa, wife of the late Prince Zeid Ben Al Hussein and mother of Chief Chamberlain Prince Raad Ben Zeid, was laid to rest Friday at the Royal Cemetery.

## U.N. official to leave Jordan

AMMAN (J.T.) — The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) resident representative in Jordan, Dr. Ali Attiga, who is also the general coordinator of U.N. activities here, will be leaving Jordan at the end of his tour of duty. Dr. Attiga, one of the longest serving UNDP representatives in Jordan, will be transferred to the UNDP headquarters where he is expected to take up his new post as chief of the Arab Desk there. Sources close to the UNDP said that a Sudanese national, aged 57, will replace Dr. Attiga in Jordan.

## Ambassador presents his credentials

ALGIERS (Petra) — Algerian President Chadli Benjedid Sunday received the Jordanian ambassador to Algeria, Khalid Obaidat, presented to him his credentials. Dr. Obaidat conveyed to Mr. Benjedid the greetings of His Majesty King Hussein and his wishes of further progress and prosperity to the Algerian people. The Algerian president asked Dr. Obaidat to convey his best wishes to King Hussein and the Jordanian people. The ceremony was attended by Algerian Foreign Minister Ali Akhdar Al Ibrahim and other Algerian officials. Following the meeting, Dr. Obaidat said that he will work on enhancing bilateral relations between the two countries in the various fields.

## Prophet's birthday celebrations set

AMMAN (Petra) — The National Committee for celebrating Islamic occasions met Sunday under the chairmanship of Minister of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs Raef Nijem and approved the arrangements for celebrating the Prophet's birthday on Sept. 20. This year's celebration will be held under the patronage of His Majesty King Hussein on Sept. 19 at King Abdullah Mosque in Amman.

## Vegetable, fruit exports drop

AMMAN (Petra) — Jordanian exports of vegetables and fruits to foreign markets during August reached 46,200 tonnes with a total value of JD 6,700,000, according to Agricultural Marketing Corporation sources. The sources said vegetables constituted 95 per cent of the exports while fruits constituted only 5 per cent. According to the sources, last month's vegetables and fruits exports witnessed a drop of about 12,200 tonnes compared to August of last year.

## 54,510 applications received by CSC

AMMAN (Petra) — The Civil Service Commission (CSC) has received 54,510 applications through August, according to a statistical report issued by the Planning and Studies Section at the commission. The report said that the commission had appointed 622 applicants through August. The report said that 26 per cent of applicants hold university degrees while 62 per cent are holders of community college diplomas. The remaining 12 per cent are people who have passed the general secondary examination certificate. The report added that 39 per cent of the applicants were from Amman Governorate, followed by 17 per cent from Zarqa, 29 per cent from Irbid and 15 per cent from Mafrq, Balqa, Karak, Tafilah and Maan. The report said there was an increase in the number of applications received by the commission and expected an increase of 13,000 applications by the end of 1991.

## Ramtha gets JD 300,000 loan

RAMTHA (Petra) — The Cities and Villages Development Bank has approved a JD 300,000 loan for Ramtha municipality to enable it to construct and asphalt roads in various parts of the town. Ramtha municipality has asked the Ministry of Public Works to complete the construction and asphalt of the ring-road, which will cost about JD 300,000.

## Sports clubs to receive support

KARAK (Petra) — The Ministry of Youth is trying to help sports clubs to set up their own premises and is providing a maximum of JD 15,000 in grants to help each one to carry out the projects. Minister of Youth Saleh Irshaidat said in a statement here Sunday. The ministry is also allocating JD 70,000 for 1991 to spend on sports events and related activities in accordance with priorities. Dr. Irshaidat said during a visit to Karak Governorate. The ministry has allocated JD 90,000 to set up services and utilities for the Karak Sports Complex and will earmark another JD 125,000 for the other services later on, Dr. Irshaidat said.

## AYF prepares for elections

AMMAN (Petra) — The Arab Youth Forum (AYF) has set the period from Oct. 15 to Oct. 30 for the election of the various branches' administrative committees, according to the representative of the AYF's president, Dr. Abdullah Touqan. Dr. Touqan said that the forum's board of trustees has approved the regulations governing the election process and agreed to form committees in the various areas to prepare for, to supervise and oversee the election process. The elections are aimed at electing permanent administrative committees for the various branches and a new Board of Trustees. Following the announcement of the results, the new board will appoint a chairman.

## WHAT'S GOING ON

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the concerned institutions.

## EXHIBITIONS

- ☆ Art exhibition by Ibrahim Abul Rabh at the Royal Cultural Centre.
- ☆ An exhibition of naive painting, from Germany at Abdel Hameed Shoman Foundation Gallery.
- ☆ Exhibition by Iraqi artists Raed Dulaimi and Baid Al Bustani at the Royal Cultural Centre.

## FILM

- ☆ French film entitled "Le Doulou" at the French Cultural Centre — 8:00 p.m.

## Crown Prince calls for change in Jordanians' world outlook, stresses need for cooperation

CAIRO (Petra) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan Sunday said there was a need to change Jordan's approach to dealing with the world and stressed the importance of planning for the future.

In an address to the opening session of a symposium on Arab Regional Cooperation in the 1990s, read out on his behalf by Arab Thought Forum (ATF) Secretary General Sayyed Yassin, Prince Hassan said no country or cultural community or region can isolate itself from the other parts of the world, nor can it detach itself from the world on grounds of cultural, political or economic privacy.

Prince Hassan called for adopting the cultural analysis approach as a means for understanding changes in political and economic concepts in the Arab World and worldwide.

The Crown Prince said that the participants' contribution and inputs in the discussions and debate taking place at the symposium provide a good entry for formulating a new Arab order. He added that such an order cannot exist without public debate by the intellectuals.

Prince Hassan stressed the importance of research and dialogue in crystallizing a creative pan-Arab initiative to achieve peace, security and prosperity. The

Crown Prince said such an initiative should be in the form of an ongoing process.

He stressed the importance of finding a flexible package which can provide a common ground in terms of concerns. Such a common ground should serve as a starting point for discussions on issues related to energy, disarmament and foreign debt in view of the relations between these three changing elements.

The symposium is organized by the Arab Thought Forum in cooperation with the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) and the Cairo-based Centre for Political and Strategic Studies.

## Egypt relaxes visa requirements for Palestinian students

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Palestinian students from the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip holding Jordanian or Egyptian travel documents will be given immediate visas by the Egyptian embassy in Amman without clearance from the Interior Ministry in Cairo, a senior Egyptian source said Sunday.

The report of the exemption by Jordan's foreign minister, Dr. Abdullah Ensour, that the Kingdom was not planning any immediate co-ordinator-move to Egypt's decision last week to impose visa requirements for Jordanians travelling to Egypt. "Jordan wants to give goodwill and mediation efforts a chance" before adopting any counter-measures to the Egyptian decision, Dr. Ensour was quoted as saying by the Al Ra'i Arabic-language daily Sunday.

Under the Egyptian move announced last week, holders of five-year Jordanian passports — permanent residents of the East Bank — have to apply for visas through the Egyptian mission in Amman and their request would be granted on the same day while holders of two-year passports — permanent residents of the West Bank — have to wait three to four weeks for clearance from Cairo before obtaining a visa.

Senior officials said Jordan was hoping that Arab League mediation would be successful in repealing the Egyptian decision.

The exemption for students, which went into effect Sunday, means that Palestinian students who are permanent residents of the West Bank and the Gaza Strip will be treated the same as holders of five-year passports.

"The only precondition is that every applicant has to prove that he or she is a student in an Egyptian institution," said the Egyptian source, who preferred anonymity. "Non-students who have entry permits to the occupied territories, those who possess residents permits for Egypt and those who have family living in Egypt are also given immediate visas without the clearance process."

The source estimated that close to 8,000 Palestinian students holding Jordanian documents or Egyptian laissez-passez will be covered under the exemption for students, most of them spending their vacation with their families in Jordan or the occupied territories after crossing the Jordan River from the East Bank.

According to the source, "the decision was taken in view of the fact that Egyptian universities and schools are reopening after vacation sooo and the students cannot afford to wait for clearance from the Interior Ministry in Cairo."

The source said the Egyptian consulates in Amman and Aqaba were handling an average of 150 visa applications from Jordanian passport holders everyday.

"Five-year passport holders are given visas on the same day or the next depending upon the load of work at the consulates while applications from non-students are sent to Cairo for clearance," the source told the Jordan Times.

The source denied reports that Egypt had imposed visa regulations on Sudanese, Yemeni and Algerian nationals during or after the Gulf crisis and that the new procedures applied only to Jordaoian nationals.

Although the source declined to comment on the reasons behind the restriction on Jordanians, it was attributed to the strain in Egyptian-Jordanian relations caused by conflicting stands towards the Gulf crisis and reports in the Egyptian press last week that a group of saboteurs who entered Egypt from Jordan were arrested by Egyptian police and had confessed to planning an attack on an American ship in the Suez Canal.

## Glamour and glitter of Europe fashion shows come to Jordan

By Serene Halasa

Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The glamour, glitter and splendour of Europe's fashion shows will be displayed for the first time in Jordan today.

In this fashion show, sponsored by the Amman Marriott Hotel, the autumn-winter 1991-92 collection of Swiss-born fashion designer Prince Egon von Fuerstenberg will be dedicated to the modern working woman. The designs will include a range of day wear dresses, afternoon dresses, evening and cocktail gowns and a bridal dress reflecting a woman's sense of sensuality and femininity.

Born in 1946, Prince Fuerstenberg is currently living in Milan, Italy, the world's well known fashion city. His job has taken him around the world, displaying his "haute couture" designs in New York, Mexico City, Toronto, Singapore, Vienna, Barcelona, Frankfurt and Rome. Because of his constant travels, Prince Fuerstenberg considers himself "a citizen of the world."

After graduating from New York's Institute of Fashion and Technology, Prince Fuerstenberg started his career as a buyer for several men and women's fashion lines at Macy's in New York. After about three years, Prince Fuerstenberg decided to launch his own fashion line for men in New York.

Several years later, he designed five "pret a porter" fashion lines for women. This collection included women's sportswear, day, cocktail and evening dresses.

Aside from designing women's fashions, Prince Fuerstenberg is also famous for his romantic bridal gowns, jewellery, bags, underwear, textiles for architectural purposes and a perfume for men.

Prince Fuerstenberg's designs have dressed many famous clients around the world including Candice Ber-

gan, Liza Minelli, Sofia Loren, the Agnelli family, Ornella Moti and Ira von Fuerstenberg.

A member of the Chamber Della Couture Italiana and the Council of American Designers, Prince Fuerstenberg's designs have earned him 16 prizes in America, Italy, Mexico and South America.

His latest fashion show in Rome, called the "Roma Alta Moda," received popular reviews from many Italian fashion magazines including La Nazione, Pacca Sera, Il Giornale D'Italia and Il Messaggero.

Prince Fuerstenberg is accompanied by 10 Italian models who, according to informed sources, will be flown down to Petra for fashion shows that will appear in many fashion magazines around the world.

His next fashion shows are scheduled to take place in Paris at the end of this year and in Rome on Jan. 21.

## CAEU calls for greater economic cooperation among Arab countries

AMMAN (Petra) — The Council of Arab Economic Unity (CAEU), which held its 49th meeting in Cairo on Sept. 4, passed a number of resolutions designed to boost economic integration among Arab countries, according to Minister of Industry, Trade and Supply Ali Abul Ragheb.

The CAEU called on Arab states to facilitate trade among themselves and execute inter-Arab agreements on the exchange of national products with the purpose of attaining integration, said the minister, who returned from Cairo Friday evening.

He said the council cited the petrochemical, tourism and textile industries as the first areas where such coordination and integration can be achieved. The council also discussed food security for the Arab World and

formed special team to conduct a study and submit a report on the best and most effective means of achieving that goal, Mr. Abul Ragheb said.

Mr. Abul Ragheb, who held talks with Egyptian officials on

promoting Egyptian-Jordanian economic and trade ties, said that Arab League decision was taken to transfer CAEU headquarters from Amman to Cairo now that the Arab League has been reinstated in the Egyptian capital.

## Umm Mario

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## Influx of expatriates raises number of unemployed workers to 140,000

AMMAN (Petra) — The return of Jordanian and Palestinian expatriates from Kuwait has aggravated the unemployment situation in the Kingdom, raising to 140,000 the number of job-seekers through August, up from 106,000 in 1990, Minister of Labour Abdul Karim Al Dughmi said Sunday.

The average rate of unemployment among the Jordanian workforce in the local labour market has risen from 3.6 per cent in the early 1980s to 16.8 per cent in 1990. It is currently about 20 per cent, the minister said in a working paper he submitted to the Council of Ministers.

As to the total Jordaoian workforce, Mr. Dughmi said they now stand at 630,000 up from 583,000 in 1989 and 420,000 in 1980. In his working paper, the minister also pointed out that the total number of non-Jordanian workers in the Kingdom now stands at 165,000, up from 80,000 in 1980.

The minister added that the number of Jordanian workers abroad has dropped from 8,000 in the first half of the 1980s to 3,000 in the second half. He said that at least 30,000 Jordanians who were working abroad have returned to the Kingdom due to the Gulf crisis and that an estimated 50,000 Jordanian workers are still employed abroad.

Mr. Dughmi said that joint efforts by the public and private sectors are needed to overcome the chronic unemployment problem and suggested an increase in investments as a way to absorb

job seekers and to partly deal with unemployment.

He said unemployment has been aggravated with the massive return of expatriates reminiscent of the 1948 and 1967 influx following the two Arab-Israeli wars. To a drive to end the problem, the Ministry of Labour is trying to substitute non-Jordanians with Jordanian workers and strict regulations are being implemented to achieve that goal, Mr. Dughmi said. At the same time, the ministry's Vocational Training Corporation (VTC) is offering job seekers up to three months of training courses in any of the trades in demand in the local market. So far the ministry has received very positive response to its plans, the minister said.

Mr. Dughmi expressed hope that the Labour Ministry's current campaign to find work for the unemployed would be backed by Jordan Television, radio and news agencies which can focus light on the ministry's efforts to reduce the country's unemployment. He also appealed to employers to help the Ministry of Labour execute its programmes.

Mr. Dughmi said that uncoordinated efforts by the ministries of Labour and Interior were complicating the problem. He expressed hope that cooperation between the two sides will help the Labour Ministry deal with the problems of non-Jordanian workers.

The minister also noted that the Ministry of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs, through the mosque preachers, can contribute to the Labour Ministry's campaign.

Referring to the Labour Ministry's sponsored national project for dealing directly with unemployment, Mr. Dughmi said that the ministry was planning small and medium sized income-generating projects in urban and rural regions enabling heads of families or graduates of universities and community colleges to acquire soft loans for such projects in cooperation with the Development and Employment Fund. The pilot project will succeed and help encourage job seekers to earn their own living, the minister said.

He added that the Labour Ministry was supporting this project and expressed hopes that the Development and Employment Fund will have enough funds to finance the project.

In his working paper, Mr. Dughmi criticised the unorganised rush by the private sector to set up institutes for higher education without proper study of the needs of the local community. The minister said that most of those companies starting universities aim to collect the highest rate of profits in the shortest possible time without giving due consideration to the needs of the socio-economic development in Jordan.

He urged the government to re-examine the question of granting licences for universities and to link private sector's investment to the Ministry of Labour, which can direct them towards the needs of the Jordanian community.

## Minister says effort to eradicate illiteracy succeeding

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Ministry of Education has set up 629 literacy and adult training centres in the Kingdom over the past two decades in a bid to reduce the number of illiterate people in the Kingdom, which at present account for 19 per cent of the population, Minister of Education Eid Al Dahiyat said in a statement Sunday.

These literacy centres have provided education to 160,000 citizens over the past 20 years, but the ministry will continue to try to increase the number of attendants in a bid to eradicate illiteracy in Jordan by the end of

the century, the minister said in an address marking this year's International Literacy Day on Sept. 8.

The Ministry of Education initiated evening classes and literacy centres back in 1952, but it was in 1964 that the ministry expanded the project to various regions, offering education free of charge to the greatest number of people.

At the same time and in order to fight illiteracy, the minister said, strict regulations were issued to deal with school dropouts and in imposing compulsory education for all children.

In 1961, the rate of illiterate people in Jordan stood at 67.7 per cent of the population over the age of 15 years. It has dropped to 19 per cent in 1991, according to Ahmad Al Sous, head of Literacy Education at the ministry.

In his annual message this year, the director general of UNESCO said: "We know now that it is a vain hope to wish to eradicate illiteracy while the level and quality of primary education remains low. To eliminate this blight, a two fold strategy must be applied, targeted equally at unschooled young people and adults and at primary school pupils."

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## Jordan Times

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## Water — solutions in a murky situation

**WATER SHORTAGE** had been fast reaching a very critical stage in the Kingdom. With 90 per cent of the country being semi-arid, enjoying less than 90 millimetres of rainfall annually, the influx of some 300,000 returnees from the Gulf region has made the situation much worse for all of us. The capital's water problem has lately been described by its municipality as having already reached the red line with the difference between demand and supply as well over 90,000 cubic metres. Currently Amman Governorate receives only 210,000 cubic metres of water while its actual needs surpass the 300,000 cubic metres figure. Elsewhere in the Kingdom the water shortage problem is not much less acute. The south is particularly vulnerable because rainfall there is generally very low. According to government figures the country consumed about 180 million cubic metres of water in 1989 but is projected to consume about 380 million cubic metres by the turn of the century.

This critical situation obviously calls for immediate and intermediate solutions before the problem becomes totally insoluble. Long-term plans are also needed but futuristic answers would require regional arrangements constructed on political understandings that as yet do not exist among the various countries of the area.

On the immediate level, one could think in terms of drastic actions such as putting a freeze on housing construction or applying even more prohibitive rates on increasing water use. Stopping or even scaling down on construction, however, is not feasible simply because there is an abrupt and understandable upsurge in demand for homes to allow for the large and sudden increase in population. Applying higher rates for water use, on the other hand, is already being applied to make Jordanians more conscious of the water crisis in their country and any further increase would have to be extremely limited and selective. Making such rates even higher may indeed help but it would not rectify the situation completely.

But there are other more reasonable avenues available for immediate application. On top of the list would be to arrest wasting water, especially due to leakages from main water networks and pipes conservatively estimated to reach almost 50 per cent of the water supply. Secondly by stopping the contamination of water resources, the country stands to redeem much of available water supplies. The extent of the losses attributed to contamination can be best illustrated by the disastrous story of King Talal Dam. Consequently we may think in terms of recycling waste water until other water resources are developed, and of shifting agricultural patterns to make them suit better our soil and climate.

On the intermediate level, the construction of more mini, low-cost dams across the country also provides greater hope to tackle the problem. Indeed the government has called for the construction of a series of such dams, especially in the desert areas where the collection and preservation of any amount of rainfall stands to alleviate the gravity of the water shortage.

In the long term, a regional conference along the lines of the proposed Istanbul conference may offer the kind of permanent solution that all the countries of the areas need. Such a conference needs to be well prepared for in order to enhance its degree of success. Such a successful enterprise can indeed turn water from a potential war causing factor into a mechanism to promote long-term stability and peace in the Middle East. Granted the future of the proposed Turkey meeting later this year hangs in the balance over the matter of Israeli participation in it. But Israel has to understand that it too stands to suffer greatly from lack of progress on the peace front and that without a serious effort on its part to solve the Palestinian problem it will continue to face isolation, even on the water level. This is why the beginning of the long process to heal the water shortage in the region must be launched, with or without Israel, depending on whether the Jewish state is ready to cooperate and be part of a new regional set-up that stands for prosperity and peace.

## ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

IT is premature for us to be convinced that Washington has finally chosen to deal firmly with Israel's settlement policies after the U.S. administration announced plans to delay giving a \$10-billion loan guarantees to the Jewish state for 120 days said Al Ra'i Arabic daily Sunday. It is also premature to believe that the delay of 120 days will be allowed to take its course to the end in light of the outcry and the threats raised by the Israeli prime minister in reaction to Washington's move, the paper added. It said that Israel's defiance of the world community and international legitimacy should prompt the U.S. administration to halt all aid to Israel pending its full compliance with the call of peace and respect for the U.N. resolutions. The paper said that the American administration will be put to test with regard to its latest decision during the coming tour of the region by the U.S. secretary of state who will be visiting Israel and meeting with the Israeli leaders. We only have to wait and see whether the U.S. administration will have the upper hand, or whether the Israeli leaders, backed by the Zionist lobby in the United States, will come out victorious, said the paper. One can not rule out the prospect of Israel raising the question of Palestinian representation in order to delay the peace conference and in reprisal against the U.S. administration's bid to delay offering the Jewish state that \$10 billion loan guarantees which would help it settle a million Jews on occupied Arab lands, the paper pointed out. These prospects and other threats to the peace conference should be confronted by a firm stand on the part of the Arab countries, the paper said.

## Weekly Political Pulse

# Clearing the last hurdles towards peace

THE immediate parties to the Arab-Israeli conflict are biding their breath in anticipation of U.S. Secretary of State James Baker's seventh visit to the region to untie the knot that has so far prevented the completion of the preparations for the October Middle East peace conference. The remaining nut that awaits cracking is of course the matter of Palestinian participation in the projected peace talks. Till this point in time and in spite of all tireless efforts, the Palestinians remain the only major player in the peace process that have not formally accepted to attend the proposed peace parley.

The Palestinians offer two persuasive reasons for holding back on their final word: one because their sole representative, the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), is being denied a place at the negotiating table and two because Israel insists it will not accept to negotiate with Palestinians from East Jerusalem and deems them persona non grata for the purposes of the peace talks.

The Israeli insistence to exclude the PLO from the negotiation process appears to substantiate Palestinian fears that such a stance amounts to the negation of Palestinian identity and their right of self-determination. The Israeli veto on East Jerusalemites is clearly meant to enforce Tel Aviv's rejection of East Jerusalem as being part of the occupied territories and, therefore, not a subject for negotiations. Accepting or better still yielding to such Israeli demands has put the Palestinians' last word on hold pending further clarifications and assurances that Mr. Baker is supposed to iron out during his forthcoming trip.

Such a last ditch effort by Mr. Baker had been temporarily dashed when U.S. President George Bush announced at a news conference in Kenebunkport, Maine, last week that "there are no plans" to send Secretary Baker back to the area. This fortunately turned out not to be the final word on the subject as more recent pronouncements by Mr. Baker confirm that his trip to the Middle East is imminent. More troubling, however, was President Bush's other comment on the peace process when he said that "the ball lies in the other courts."

The president may have been thinking mostly of the Palestinians when he suggested that the ball lies in the other courts because they are the only remaining party that has yet to signal its willingness to talk and negotiate peace. In other words, Washington may be thinking in terms of persuading the Palestinians to yield to the infamous Israeli demands or risk sabotaging the entire peace process.

The Palestinians are obviously cornered and find themselves in a no win situation. They are damned if they go to the peace conference and damned if they do not. Meanwhile, Tel Aviv likes nothing more than see the demise of the peace talks because it never wanted things to go that far in the first place. Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir and his inner government were counting all along on an "Arab no" to derail the American peace efforts. Yet for the Palestinians to send out a green light on two very fundamental points that touch the heart of the matter even before the negotiations are formally launched. No wonder the Palesti-

nians are in such a bind not sure which way to turn.

On the other hand, as the struggling Palestinians in the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, are in fact the other side of the PLO coin, then one may rightfully entertain the acceptance of the thesis that the Palestinian organisation and Palestinians under occupation are indivisible with each part representing the other. After all the Palestinians there constitute the bulk of the PLO's constituency. For tactical reasons at least, leaders of the Palestinian intifada should be allowed to go ahead and challenge the Israelis to the negotiation table.

Accordingly if the Palestinians under occupation and the PLO are not identical twins, they are at least twins of a sort. For the sake of calling the Israeli bluff, one would venture to propose the elimination of this point from the thorny agenda that awaits resolution. As for Jerusalem, as long as the city will be kept on the negotiating table, it makes little difference whether Mr. Faisal Husseini or Dr. Haniyeh Ashrawi will do the negotiation on its behalf.

The Palestinians should concentrate on substance rather than modalities and as long as the heart of the matter will be addressed, then there is no reason to play into the Israeli hands by procrastinating any further. With the Bush administration now in the midst of a tug of war over the Israeli request for a \$10 billion loan guarantee, it needs and deserves all the help it can galvanise in order to come out ahead in the current standoff between Washington and Tel Aviv.

## Yugoslav army appears to lose neutrality in Croatian strife

By Tony Smith  
The Associated Press

PETRINJA, YUGOSLAVIA — When the shell hit Petrinja barracks, the portrait of a Marshal Josip Broz Tito shook — as did the late communist leader's vision of the Yugoslav army.

Tito died in 1980, after making his people's army the mightiest in the Balkans and the embodiment of Yugoslavia's ethnic mosaic. Now, the military appears increasingly Serb-dominated and mired in Yugoslavia's bitter internal strife.

The marshal was a Croat communist whose partisans beat the Nazis, their Croatian puppets, known as Ustasha, and Serbian ultranationalist royalists called Chetniks in World War II.

With Tito's Yugoslavia sandwiched between western imperialism and Soviet expansion, the army was meant to fend off both.

Army officers enjoyed the best privileges while Tito suppressed the nationalists that now have plunged Yugoslavs into their bloodiest fratricidal conflict since the war.

Seated below a pro-Tito slogan, Lt. Col. Slobodan Tarbuk, commander of Petrinja's Vasilj

Gacica base, was clear whom his forces were battling. Monday was the latest truce in Croatia shook.

He defined the warring parties as: "very clearly the Serbian people and the Croatian Interior Ministry forces."

He said his forces had never clashed with Serb rebels in Croatia because these "never acted against the army."

He insisted his men, part of a well-equipped army whose strength in Croatia is never revealed, never fired first on the outgunned Croatian forces, believed to total in the tens of thousands.

So, when a distant explosion was heard at noon Monday, Lt. Col. Tarbuk claimed Croatian forces had mortared another nearby barracks.

Within minutes, multiple rocket launchers and other guns screamed out a massive counter-attack. Nine tanks were sent into Petrinja and two MiG 23s swooped low overhead.

One shell hit Tarbuk's barracks, shaking Tito's portrait and other partisan mementos but causing no major damage.

Croatian officials claimed Tuesday the army staged the attack itself and Croatian forces only fired later.

As usual in Croatia's undeclared war, the truth was impossible to determine.

Croatia claims the military is siding with the republic's Serb minority and had helped them grab about one quarter of its land since Easter.

Luka Bebic, Croatia's defense minister, said some army officers still believe "many myths (of Yugoslav unity) from the past" and are stopping Serbo-Croat clashes.

They are setting new Serbian borders, being used for the aims of greater Serbia."

Says Davor Krivic, chief secretary of the crisis committee in Croatia's battle-scarred region of Slavonia: "Serbia has its interests, the army has its, and they coincide."

"Both want to take as much as possible from Croatia" — Serbia to support its economy, the army to maintain its privileges, Mr. Krivic said.

Serbia's small opposition, strong critics of the army and Serbian President Slobodan Milosevic, disagrees.

"The army does not share... the idea of a greater Serbia," said Vrcina, a widely respected independent Belgrade weekly.

Since Croatia declared independence June 25, more than 300 people have died in fighting. Army actions are reported almost daily.

The military says it's there to keep Serbs and Croats apart. But EC observers have supported some of the Croatian claims and independent observers claim the army Serbian militiamen control territory.

In a sense, the army is fighting for its life. As the power of all federal institutions has waned in Yugoslavia, so too has the army's once unquestionable authority.

Gen. Marko Negovanovic, chief of Federal Military Intelligence, says the army had asked the collective federal presidency, constitutionally the supreme command, in January for the right to disarm all illegal paramilitary units in Croatia — Serb and Croat.

"But the decision was not made," he said.

Many suspect army brass does not want its role usurped by either Croatian security forces or bands of armed Serbs.

Army pride was dented when it battled the forces of tiny Slovenia after that republic declared independence June 25. The presidency ordered the army out of

Slovenia by Oct. 1, and the army seems to be complying.

The southern and central republics of Macedonia and Bosnia-Herzegovina refuse to send recruits to the army.

Angry mothers from all over Yugoslavia have demanded their conscript son's release from JNA ranks. Mass desertions have been reported.

All this threatens to make an army manned almost exclusively by Serbs and their Montenegrin allies.

The mood in Vasilj Gacica, base, especially among 100 or so older reservists from Serbia or local Serb villages, was vehemently anti-Croatian.

One gray-haired reservist cursed Croatia for being a Ger-

man ally as he stalked round the camp, where about 50 journalists were confined for more than seven hours "for their own safety" during Monday's fighting.

"I think there will be a war, a bad war and the Croatian government is guilty," said one 20-year-old conscript, who said he was half Croat, half Macedonian but refused to give his name. Few Croatian conscripts could be found.

Many young Serbs are unsure they want to help preserve a country that de facto no longer exists.

"I think I can leave, I certainly want to go," said conscript Milan Pantelic, 20. "I see no end to this war in the near future."

## LETTERS

## 'Immaculate record'

To the Editor:

I HAVE read several articles from various publications about Israel's reasons and excuses for getting the additional \$10 billion U.S. aid for "humanitarian" purposes, namely for absorbing and settling an expected extra million Jews. On Radio Israel, on Sept. 7, it was declared that Israel has "an immaculate repayment record."

Their record is so good that countries which had lent money to Israel often had to write off the loan as a lost cause. There is no way the Israeli government will ever be in a better financial position than it is today. The Israelis can claim that they repay their loans because the governments lending them money never tell their people just how much Israel has received as the loans are often converted into outright grants or forgiven altogether.

As for the "humanitarian" reasons, how can they be called that when they are based on inhuman actions?

If they call the theft of land from people who have lived on it for thousands of years, the murder of thousands of people, most of them under 25 years of age, for resisting the theft, the expulsion of those opposing the occupation forces and the destruction of Palestinian's means of subsistence while people, complete strangers to the land, are brought in an allowed to live on stolen property, humanitarian actions, then the world is in a bad state of affairs.

Dr. Aida Dabbas,  
Amman.

## Who robbed whom?

To the Editor:

IN QUITE a few pieces of recent reporting on the market situation in Baghdad and that some of the goods there were brought from Kuwait, the phrase "the thief Ali Baba and his gang" was seen frequently. Obviously the writers want to add some "colour" to their stories with reference to the fabulous tales from the Arab World. In this case, however, the writers appear not to have the least idea of what they are writing about, again typical of the Western media to assign journalists with little knowledge of the region or its history.

May I remind the so-called writers that "Ali Baba," as given in the tales, was never a thief; in fact, he was one who disposed thieves. Very unwittingly, of course, the writers have hit the nail on the head by comparing Iraqis with Ali Baba. Do I have to spell out whose "treasure cave" of loot did the Iraqis empty?

Inad Khairallah,  
P.O. Box 346668,  
Marsa.

The Jordan Times welcomes letters and contributions from its readers on any subject they wish to tackle. Letters intended for publication, however, should contain the writer's full name and preferably address as well. Names can be withheld only upon request and under special circumstances. Letters are subject to editing. The newspaper is not responsible for the return of unused manuscripts.



minister since 1958, stabbed to death by a parliamentary messenger.

1976 — Countrywide anti-apartheid rioting is triggered by violent police action in quelling a demonstration of Soweto pupils objecting to the use of Afrikaans as a medium of education. Transkei becomes the first black homeland to be granted nominal independence.

1977 — Black consciousness leader Steve Biko is killed in police custody.

1978 — P.W. Botha, who later moves cautiously to dismantle some apartheid laws, takes over from John Vorster as prime minister.

1982 — Andries Treurnicht leads a breakaway from the National Party and forms the pro-apartheid Conservative Party.

1983 — South Africa adopts a new constitution which gives limited parliamentary powers to Indian and coloured (mixed-race) voters. The United Democratic Front, a broad alliance of anti-

apartheid organisations, is founded.

1984 — Anti-apartheid rioting erupts again in townships nationwide. Desmond Tutu, leading anti-government cleric, is awarded the Nobel Peace Prize. Government announces the repeal of the ban on sex and marriage between whites and other races.

1985 — Mr. Botha announces he is willing to consider Mr. Mandela's release. The government imposes a partial state of emergency to quell rioting. Foreign investors start a disinvestment drive.

1986 — Pass laws are scrapped.

1989 — Botha suffers a stroke and is replaced as National Party leader and then president by F.W. de Klerk, who wins a general election on a reformist ticket.

1990 — De Klerk pledges to scrap apartheid and announces the unbanning of the ANC and other anti-apartheid groups. Mr. Mandela is freed from jail. The legal enforcement of separate amenities for different races is

repealed — the first pillar of apartheid is toppled.

June 1991 — Parliament votes to repeal the land acts and groups areas acts by the end of the month. Blacks can now buy land on the open market and the restriction on where they can live is abolished. Only one of apartheid's pillars remains.

June 17, 1991 — Parliament votes to scrap the population registration act. All laws underpinning the apartheid constitution are no longer valid.

July 30, 1991 — Government, shaken by a scandal over slash fund payments to Inkatha Freedom Party, announces review of covert government projects and says all secret operations which could be seen as politically-biased had been scrapped.

Sept. 4, 1991 — The NP formally proposes a blueprint for democracy that would give blacks a vote for the first time but deny outright power to any one group. The ANC rejects it as unworkable and a cynical attempt to preserve white privilege.



# Shamir vows more settlements

(Continued from page 1)

"Let us work to end the sterile confrontations of the past. Our peoples look forward to a future of peace, freedom and prosperity," Mr. Bush wrote.

He added: "Working together, our governments can find the wisdom and leadership we need. The United States will stand beside Israel in the quest for peace and security."

Israel's refusal to heed U.S. pleas to delay its aid request until after the tentatively scheduled October peace conference has deepened strains with its closest ally and financial backer.

President Bush asked the U.S. Congress to postpone for 120 days its consideration of the guarantees, saying he wanted to "give peace a chance."

He is apparently concerned

approval of the aid before the conference could alienate Arab states such as Syria, which has agreed for the first time to talk directly with Israel.

Mr. Bush set aside the dispute over the loan guarantees in appealing to Mr. Shamir Sunday to work with the United States in the effort to end 43 years of Arab-Israeli hostilities.

"The world still presents new dangers. But the opportunities, especially the opportunities for peace in the Middle East, are even greater. Let us work to end the sterile confrontations of the past," Mr. Bush said in the message.

The message — eight short sentences — made no mention of the request for loan guarantees.

Other ministers sought Saturday to play down the collision course aspect of the U.S.-Israeli

relationship.

Foreign Minister Levy told a meeting of his Likud Party supporters that Israel did not want a confrontation with the Bush administration over the loan guarantees, Israel Radio said.

"Levy said the U.S. is not hostile, and for that reason, harmful and unnecessary statements against the United States should be avoided," the radio said.

Defence Minister Moshe Arens said Saturday: "We have a tendency here to exaggerate and to paint in dark colours the future of our relationship with the U.S., despite the fact that over the last decade our relationship has been a special one, one of friendship and alliance."

Accepting a copy of the loan guarantee request in Tel Aviv Saturday night, U.S. Ambassador William Brown used the Hebrew word for "nonsense" to reject suggestions the Bush administration intended to use the guarantees to force concessions from Israel.

"We are not about the application of pressure, and let's leave it at that," Mr. Brown said.

Washington approved an earlier loan guarantee for Israel after Mr. Shamir pledged that immigrants would not be settled in the occupied territories.

Mr. Shamir has mobilised the powerful pro-Israel lobby in Washington to win congressional support for the guarantees.

Finance Minister Yitzhak Mordechai incorporated a first instalment of \$2 billion into his 1992 budget before the request for guarantees was even made. Mr. Mordechai said Sunday he believed Israel would almost certainly get the guarantees.

Mr. Mordechai said Israel expected its Jewish population of 4.2 million to swell by 25 per cent. At the same time, he said, Israel had never defaulted "by one penny or one minute" on a loan. He said it was enacting a law to curb its deficit, opening its market to imports and privatising state industries — measures which U.S. free-marketisers would welcome.

But other countries, when they plan their budgets, "at least know what their population is. We don't even know that," said Mr. Mordechai.

He declined to speculate on the economy would manage if the loan guarantees were delayed, but said that immigrant absorption will consume 14 per cent of the 1992 budget, just behind the 15 per cent earmarked for defence.

Mr. Mordechai suggested that if discussion of the guarantees was delayed, he would like some quick indication of where things were heading.

"Whatever the outcome will be," he said, "I hope that Israel will have a clear picture of its ability to rely upon this guarantee, and the sooner the better."

Ambassador Brown gave no such indications, and mentioned that "we're coping with tremendous budgetary and deficit problems ourselves in the United States."

Asked whether the U.S. action amounted to pressure on Israel, he replied in Hebrew: "She-tuyot" (nonsense).

Israel TV said Mr. Baker asked Mr. Shamir to delay the request, because he feared the timing was bad. It said Mr. Baker felt a cooling-off period was desirable, because Mr. Bush is at present angry with Israel for ignoring his demand to stop building Jewish settlements in the occupied Arab territories.

Mr. Mordechai said the aid request reiterates Israel's promise not to use the money raised through the loan guarantees on settlements in occupied territories.

A senior PLO official expressed disappointment Sunday at the response by Arab leaders to Palestinian demands for strong representation at the proposed Middle East peace conference.

Mahmoud Abbas, a member of the PLO Executive Committee, told the Tunisian weekly Al Bayane, that the conference would not take place unless Palestinians were permitted to choose a delegation of their own terms.

"These conditions aren't utopian or impossible to achieve," Mr. Abbas said in the interview.

He said the PLO was working incessantly to promote a Palestinian position regarding Palestinian representation at the peace talks.

"But these initiatives, if they haven't failed, haven't achieved

their anticipated goal," he said.

Mr. Abbas said he deplored the fact that most Arab leaders did not share the PLO's insistence on "honourable" representation at the peace conference for Palestinians from Arab East Jerusalem.

The PLO said Saturday it would ask the United Nations to press Israel to let Palestinians from the occupied territories attend a crucial meeting of the Palestine National Council in Algiers.

The Palestinian news agency Wafa said the PLO would send messages to the five permanent Security Council members and the U.N. Secretary-General so that 86 members of the PNC from the occupied territories could attend.

The session, scheduled for Sept. 23, will decide whether Palestinians should attend the peace conference.

Residents of the West Bank and Gaza Strip risk being jailed on return if they attend PLO meetings abroad and publicly declare their membership of the group.

The council has 450 members representing Palestinian factions and those in the occupied territories. The PLO hopes dissident groups based in Damascus and the Muslim fundamentalist movement Hamas will also attend.

Hamas is not represented on the PNC but PLO sources said talks with its leaders had been positive.

The sources said talks with Damascus-based dissidents, who have boycotted council meetings since 1983 after a split with PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat, were continuing but so far had produced no results.

Mr. Arafat has met with Hamas leaders to discuss the group's participation in the PNC meeting, a newspaper reported Sunday.

The official Al Sudan Al Hadith quoted Palestinian sources as saying that Mr. Arafat met with Hamas' representative Ibrahim Ghosheh on Friday but they failed to reach an agreement on how the group should be represented in the next council.

Hamas's influence has grown in the occupied territories since the beginning of the intifada.

## Role of small scale sector in India

By T.V. Sriram

ABOUT one fourth of India's exports come from the small scale sector. This sector provides employment to more than 11.8 million people and produces goods worth 1.314 billion rupees.

It would be pertinent to point out that since the country's independence in 1947, the successive governments in India stressed on the development of small scale sector. The small scale industries have played a concrete role in the industrial development of the country.

The sector covers a wide range of goods, including major export items like garments, gems and jewellery, leather goods, handloom cloth and handicrafts. Till 1974 when figures were systematically presented, nearly 4 million people sought employment in the small scale sector. The investment limit of the small scale sector was estimated at 22,960 million rupees. The village industries have also benefited significantly due to the encouragement given to the small scale sector.

Contrary to the inability of large industrial houses to contribute substantially to the exports, the share of small scale sector continued to rise. A Reserve Bank of India (RBI) report says in 1988-89, when the country's exports rose by 25 per cent, the share of the small scale sector in the total exports was 28 per cent.

However, some economists feel there is more room for enhancement of the small scale sector. The Federation of Indian Chamber of Commerce and Industries (FICCI) estimated that the exports from this sector can be raised to the tune of more than 250,000 million rupees. The projection is based on the assumption that the exports from small scale industries would grow at an average compound growth rate of more than 14 per cent per annum from a base of about 58,810 million rupees as on 1988-89.

The government has decided to hike to investment limit of small scale sector from 3.8 million rupees to 6 million rupees. The investment limit for ancillary unit has also been raised from 4.5 million rupees to 7.3 million rupees.

A Reserve Bank of India report on "currency and finance" says numerous incentives have been provided for stimulating growth in this sector. It includes fiscal concessions and subsidies including preferential rates of excise duties, priority allocation of infrastructural facilities and import of raw material and machinery.

The performance of the small-scale sector has been laudable in the recent times. During 1989-90, for instance, the number of small scale units increased by 6.7 per cent to 1.83 million. This was in comparison to 1.71 million units in 1987-88. In terms of investment, from 22,960 million rupees in 1973-74, it has gone up to 1,81,960 million rupees in 1989-90. The development of small scale industries in India has served as a model for many developing countries who have successfully emulated the model with astounding success. There is perhaps a need to raise the investment limit of the small scale sector in plant and machinery. The new industrial policy of the previous government could be changed by the new government which has taken over power and the small scale sector is clamouring to raise the investment limit further.

Participants at the seminar wanted a uniform minimum wage act among all small scale industry units in the country.

A workshop on marketing problems of small scale industry, held in March in New Delhi, highlighted the marketing difficulties that lead to sickness in the small scale industry. A survey on its marketing problems showed that a stiff competition from large enterprises, which were well promoted, clearly scored over the out well known brand of small manufacturers. The inadequate marketing organisations, inability to cover larger markets and inadequate dealer network and inability to offer competitive trade terms add to the marketing problems of the small scale industry.

The State Financial Corporations (SFCs) provide seed capital assistance to entrepreneurs, particularly to new technically or professionally qualified entrepreneurs. All types of industrial concerns, proprietary, partnership and private limited companies are eligible for assistance under this scheme. Under special capital scheme of state financial corporations equity, assistance is provided to small entrepreneurs possessing necessary skills to set up the projects but are short of funds to bring in the requisite promoters contribution. In almost all states, there is a statutory provision which enables small loans to be provided to entrepreneurs within the state. The State Bank of India and the Industrial Development Bank of India are other institutions which cater to the demand of small scale entrepreneurs.

The development programmes as massive as those of small scale industry are bound to have their strength and weaknesses. Conscious efforts are taken at the government level to get over its weaknesses and spur India's industrialisation through the small scale sector, which now has a wide base.

Mr. T.V. Sriram is a staffer with the Press Trust of India, Delhi.

## Palestine solution is priority

(Continued from page 1)


democratisation and freedom of expression. Imaginative approaches to arms control can promote security while at the same time diverting hundreds of billions of dollars towards socio-economic development. What is needed is a comprehensive approach on arms control that encompasses both the 'hardware' and 'software' dimensions. The aim should be to achieve what analysts call 'dynamic stability' through the 'regulative approach' rather than mere 'static stability' through a 'mechanistic approach'. This should cover all such elements as the structure and doctrine of the armed forces, or the complex of C3I (command, control, communication and intelligence).

"In this way a multilateral framework for confidence and security building measures (CSBMs) can be practically developed in the Middle East. Such a structure can allow for military stability between states and military forces of different sizes. The main objective is regional security rather than arms control or reduction for its own sake. The purpose is the prevention of the use or threat of military force as stipulated in the United Nations charter. Of course, a major prerequisite for such a process is a breakthrough in resolving the Palestinian-Israeli conflict."

"A conference on security and cooperation in the Middle East (CSCE) can draw on the moral weight of the Helsinki process in Europe. I have on more than one

occasion emphasised that the 'Helsinki 34' are integrally interlinked to the Middle East through the triangle of energy, armaments and debt. The 'Helsinki 34' are the main consumers of Middle East oil, its main suppliers of arms and its main creditors. It is no exaggeration to say that oil revenues in the Middle East have literally fuelled the arms race, which in its turn has been largely behind the external debt crisis faced by many countries in the region. Any effective consideration of arms control must therefore by necessity focus on the issues of energy and indebtedness. For example, the recent proposal from Brussels for a European energy charter can provide useful guidelines for tackling constructively the issue of energy in the Middle East. This proposed charter outlines three objectives for the European energy sector including Eastern Europe: Firstly, security of supply, secondly safeguarding the environment and thirdly efficiency of production. If these principles were applied in respect of Middle East energy, then a great contribution to peace and stability will be made.

"To sum up, I believe that the priorities for peace and stability in the Middle East lie firstly in achieving a breakthrough in resolving the Palestinian-Israeli conflict. This will pave the way for a regional process of security and cooperation in the three priority areas of arms, energy, debt and development. The focal point of such a process should be people, as durable peace must be by definition between people and not only among states and governments."



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# Seles slams Navratilova to win U.S. Open title

NEW YORK (R) — Monica Seles slammed Martina Navratilova to win the U.S. Open Tennis Championship and finish her Grand Slam season unbeaten.

Seles added the U.S. crown to her Australian and French Open triumphs but her perfect record includes a glaring omission, one the 17-year-old Yugoslav is determined to make up for.

"Wimbledon will be the most important for me next year," said Seles after beating Navratilova 7-6 6-1 in the women's final at the National Tennis Centre. "It's the only one missing from my collection."

Seles said she skipped Wimbledon because of shin splints and a stress fracture in her right leg. It was a decision she says she does not regret but one that might have haunted the vivacious teenager.

"I know whenever I look back to the '91 season it will be there. But I can't erase it. If it were to have to play Wimbledon, I don't think I could have played the open," said Seles, who raised her 1991 Grand Slam match record to 21-0.

Seles was nearly as perfect against Navratilova as she claimed the \$400,000 first prize and the women's number one ranking from Steffi Graf, Navratilova's victim in the semifinals.

The Yugoslav, who pounds ground strokes with a ferocity unmatched in women's tennis, committed only four unforced errors in defeating four-time open champion Navratilova, who at 34 is twice the age of the winner.

"Monica saved her best for last. She played awfully well," said Navratilova, who was seeking to match Chris Evert Lloyd's record of 157 career titles.

The victory for Seles, in the first ever all-left-handed open

women's final, capped off a sensational year for the teenager. The Yugoslav has reached the final of all 11 tournaments she entered, winning six of them.

Navratilova received \$200,000 as runner-up.

"I played three tough matches in a row and it definitely took its toll," said Navratilova who reached the final after three-set wins over top seeded Graf, fourth seed Arantxa Sanchez Vicario and 10th-seeded Manuela Maleeva-Fragniere.

"I wasn't seeing the ball as well as I have been the whole tournament," Navratilova said. "I was half a step slower than yesterday."

Missing Wimbledon kept Seles from a chance at sweeping the Grand Slams, but the Yugoslav, happy that her health and form have returned, remained exuberantly optimistic about her future Grand Slam chances.

"If I can do it three times this year, I can do it four times next year," Seles said.

## Connors' luck ends

Meanwhile Jimmy Connors' inspirational charge through the U.S. Open final finally came to an end Saturday.

But for Connors, the 39-year-old fighter who seemingly willed himself into the semifinals, there was no bitterness in defeat.

Instead, a mutual admiration between Connors and his conqueror, Jim Courier, emerged after the 21-year-old American's 6-3 6-3 6-2 victory.

"He's a hard worker. He does what it takes to be a great player," I respect that. He knows what it takes and it visually shows. That deserves respect."

Courier, the French Open Champion who openly emulates

Connors, continued his brilliant play as he booked a berth in the final against second seed Stefan Edberg.

The only player in the tournament not to lose a set, Courier dominated the five-time open champion by running him around the court, popping passing shots by when Connors approached and keeping the pressure on with a blistering serve.

Connors, winner of a record 109 tournament titles, hates to lose. But the American had to be pleased with his spirited showing at his favorite tournament.

"It's been an unbelievable couple of weeks, actually a couple of months starting at the French Open," said Connors, who was not sure he would be fit to play competitive tennis again after reconstructive wrist surgery last October.

Connors took former French Open champion Michael Chang into a fifth set in the third round at Roland Garros before having to withdraw because of back pain.

At Wimbledon, he also reached the third round before running into Derrick Rostagno.

Connors saved his best for the open, where he is a hero to crowds at Louis Armstrong Stadium.

"I don't think anything can compare to what has happened here. With my tennis and the crowd, the whole two weeks have been really special," said Connors, whose route to the final included two thrilling, come-from-behind, five-set wins.

Courier said before the match that playing Connors was something he had dreamed about.

"When I turned pro four years ago my goal was to play Connors and McEnroe before they retired so I could tell my grandkids some



Monica Seles

day," he said.

After winning their first competitive encounter, Courier paid homage to his idol.

"There's no doubt I've emulated Jimmy's guts," Courier said. "One of my goals as a tennis player is to be a gutsy tennis player out there."

"Jimmy's the one. He's the one that everybody looks up to."

Ivan Lendl has failed to win at least one of the four Grand Slam tournaments for the first time

since 1988.

But after suffering a straight-set loss to Stefan Edberg in the U.S. Open Semifinals Saturday, the 31-year-old Lendl declared he was not done adding titles to his Grand Slam resume.

"I am not terribly happy about my Grand Slams and it is not my best year. I'll start all over in January," said Lendl, who will be going for his third Australian Open crown.

Though Lendl has been forced

to cut down on his golf time since the arrival of his twin daughters Caroline and Isabelle this summer, he vowed he still had the time and the will to continue playing championship tennis.

"I still enjoy playing. I enjoy the exercise, the training and the working out and I enjoy competing," said Lendl after being shut down by Edberg 6-3 6-3 6-4 in his first semifinal defeat at the open in nine appearances.

## Mansell wins Italian Grand Prix

MONZA, Italy (AP) — Nigel Mansell won the Italian F-1 Grand Prix in a Williams-Renault Sunday and revived his chances to catch up with World Championship leader Ayrton Senna.

Senna, the defending champion, finished second to Mansell following a thrilling duel with his British rival at the Monza autodrome.

He still held a 18-point advantage over Mansell in the championship standings, with four events left this season.

Mansell overtook the Brazilian during the 34th lap and captured his fourth Grand Prix win of this season, the 20th of his career, with a margin of 16.2 seconds.

Sunday's triumph in the 12th championship event gave Mansell 59 points in the standings while Senna climbed to 77.

Senna had entered the Italian

G.P. with a 22-point advantage over the British runner-up.

French veteran Alain Prost drove a Ferrari to third place, ahead of Gerhard Berger, the Austrian teammate of Senna.

Michael Schumacher, the newly-hired German driver of Benetton-Ford, placed fifth as he completed the first Grand Prix of his career.

Schumacher did better than his Brazilian teammate Nelson Piquet, a three-time world champion, who finished sixth.

Italy's Riccardo Patrese, who had led the race briefly at half-way, was among those who retired, along with Jean Alesi, the young French driver of Ferrari.

Mansell, 38, covered 53 laps or 307.4 kilometers in one hour, 17 minutes, 54.319 seconds at an average speed of 236.749 kph (147.109 mph).

Senna, in a McLaren-Honda, trailed the winner by 16.2 seconds. Prost had a gap of 16.8 seconds while Berger and Schumacher were 27.7 and 34.46 seconds slower than the winner.

Senna, who was among the few drivers who had a pit stop to change tires, clocked a record lap in 1:26.061 minutes, his 41st, in his effort to catch up Mansell in the final stages of the race.

Senna's average speed was 242.619 kph (150.756 mph).

The previous record of 1:26.254 minutes had been set by Senna last year, when he won the Italian G.P. beating Prost, Berger and Mansell in that order.

"It's a great day for me today. If my mathematics are correct I still can catch up Senna in the remaining races," Mansell said after victory.

## Bayern takes revenge on Kaiserslautern

BONN (R) — Bayern Munich, whose dominance of German League soccer was interrupted by Kaiserslautern last season, took their revenge on the champions Saturday.

A 16th minute penalty by Stefan Effenberg was all Bayern needed for a 1-0 home win over

Kaiserslautern, who were without their Captain Stefan Kuntz after a freak accident.

Eintracht Frankfurt stayed top of the first division thanks to their 6-1 thrashing of Stuttgart Kickers Friday.

They have 11 points from eight matches and lead on goal differ-

ence from VfB Stuttgart, who beat Bochum 4-1 Saturday.

But former East German champions Hansa Rostock, this season's surprise pace-setters, can retain pole position if they win at newly promoted Duisburg.

## Man. United moves clear at the top

LONDON (R) — Manchester United Manager Alex Ferguson is trying to play down the excitement generated at Old Trafford by his side's surging start to the season.

United's 3-0 victory against Norwich Saturday lifted them four points clear at the top of the English League and they remain one of only two first-division teams still unbeaten.

Their early-season performance has left fans and opponents asking whether United, the first English club to win the European Cup, might at last have a side capable of winning the domestic championship again.

Not since 1967 has the English League trophy graced Old Trafford, and each season the pressure to regain the title and its attendant glory grows more intense.

Manchester United have won five of their first seven games and a defence strengthened by the off-season signing of England International Paul Parker and Danish keeper Peter Schmeichel has conceded just two goals.

The team, whose goals against Norwich came from defender Dennis Irwin, 17-year-old winger Ryan Giggs and striker Brian McClair, is playing more as a unit than a group of individuals trying to show off their skills.

"They are not the flamboyant United you usually associate with the club but they are very sound and solid and extremely difficult to beat," said Wimbledon mana-

ger Ray Harford whose side lost 2-1 to United in Midweek.

But Ferguson, who in successive years has led United to glory in the Football Association (F.A.) Cup and European Cup Winners' Cup, wants to hear no title talk so early in the season.

"The championship isn't won in the first month of the season," he said. "If we are in the same position in six months maybe we will get excited. There's still a long way to go before we can start talking about winning the title."

"We have made an encouraging start and that's taken a bit of pressure off us because if you drop six points behind the leaders you start praying other people lose."

Champion Arsenal knows that feeling after losing 2-1 to Coventry Saturday, their third defeat in seven matches and first home defeat in the league for 17 months.

Arsenal manager George Graham predicted the championship race would be the most open for years and refused to panic despite seeing his side in 15th place, nine points behind United.

"I'm not concerned. It's going to be a very tight championship and I still think that. There will be no panic," he said.

Liverpool, struggling to overcome a lengthy injury list, moved into second place with a 2-1 victory at Notts County, but needed a penalty by Mark Walters two minutes from time to register

their first away win of the season. Notts County manager Neil Warnock accused his opposite number Graeme Souness of winning the match with gamesmanship at half time when Liverpool trailed 1-0.

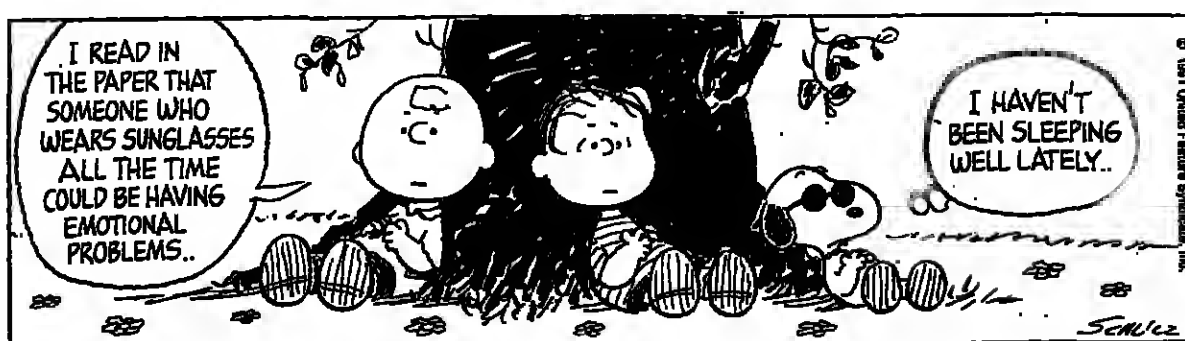
"I told Graeme Souness that he won the game at half time when he went to the referee's room to complain. He just smiled," said Warnock.

The Liverpool manager clearly felt his side should have had a first half penalty after a challenge by Alan Paris on Walters and stepped onto the pitch to shout at referee Alf Buxsh.

Warnock said: "I expected Liverpool to get a penalty before they did and I cannot help feeling that clubs like Notts County just don't get the rub of the green."

Souness, battling to overcome the absence of internationals Ian Rush, John Barnes, Ronnie Whelan and Mark Wright, refused to discuss the claims.

## Peanuts



## Andy Capp



## Mutt'n'Jeff



## HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR MONDAY SEPTEMBER 9, 1991

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Wright Foundation

**GENERAL TENDENCIES:** You may need to deal with a considerable amount of discontent this afternoon and evening as the Moon squares Uranus so make it a point to really maintain a cool attitude.

**ARIES:** (March 21 to April 19) You now can get bills paid, can make collections, are able to understand the suggestions given by bankers, businessmen in all walks of life.

**TAURUS:** (April 20 to May 20) Now you can think out very clearly just what you do want in the future and how you would like to have it so get busy and make headway.

**GEMINI:** (May 21 to June 21) Whatever speculations you have in fields in which you have any interest you would be wise to contact so that you can get the benefit of their counsel.

**MOON CHILDREN:** (June 22 to July 21) A day to think terms of how you can best get your pals to aid you in gaining those hopes and wishes that are especially desired.

**LEO:** (July 22 to August 21) Now you find that you can go directly to the most powerful official with whom you have any contact and get him/her to go along with your ideas.

**VIRGO:** (August 22 to September 22) Whatever you would like to do that does require some fresh new slant approach can be put in mo-

tion now after you have consulted with those in the know-how.

**LIBRA:** (September 23 to October 22) Whatever brings you the good will of those whom you have some duty to perform is well worthwhile this day even though you do not like their advice.

**SCORPIO:** (October 23 to November 21) Whatever you want to do that means you are the one who is eager to get along with others can be shown by you now with excellent results following.

**SAGITTARIUS:** (November 22 to December 21) Take some time out to show you are the one who is willing to plunge into the project to be done and get it finished even though you do more than your fair share.

**CAPRICORN:** (December 22 to January 20) Whatever you have in mind that does require some new amusements to lighten conditions for you is very good now so don't fail to search them out.

**AQUARIUS:** (January 21 to February 19) You are the one who should be truly concerned that you are operating in such a fashion that you are building a better security for yourself.

**PISCES:** (February 20 to March 20) Whatever brings you closest to a perfect daily routine for yourself and your usual allies can be worked out in a highly intelligent fashion now.

## Birth Stone for September: Lapis Lazuli

World Resources: Dagen & Co. Inc. Jewelers: Gem-L

Amman: Rio De Janeiro Amman: Amman Hotel: Gem-L

## THE BETTER HALF.

By Harris



"After all these years I still feel tingles when you touch me. Probably an allergy."

## JUMBLE.

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

Yesterday's Jumble: FISHY QUEEN ENCORE FUTURE

Answer: Why he had to send his suit to the cleaners after having a meal at his friend's restaurant - IT WAS ALL "ON THE CUFF"

Answers tomorrow

Answers: NOT HE

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## GOREN BRIDGE

WITH OMAR SHARIF & TAMMAM HIRSHI ©1991 Tribune Media Services Inc.

### TOO MUCH OF A GOOD THING

Both vulnerable. South deals.

**NORTH**  
 ♠ K Q 9  
 ♥ A 3  
 ♦ 6 5 2  
 ♣ 8 7 4 3 2

**EAST**  
 ♠ 5 4  
 ♥ K 9 8 4 2  
 ♦ 8 7 4 3  
 ♣ J 10 6 5

**SOUTH**  
 ♠ A J 10 8 7 3  
 ♥ Q 5  
 ♦ A 10 9  
 ♣ A Q

The bidding: South West North East  
 1 ♠ Pass 2 ♠ Pass  
 4 ♠ Pass Pass Pass

Opening lead: Eight of ♠. Usually, the stronger your hand, the better you should like it. But once in a while possession of a high card can lead even an expert declarer to a best line, as this hand illustrates.

The bidding was straightforward. North was maximum for a raise to two spades, and South considered that his six-card suit, extra strength and fine intermediates merited a direct raise to game.

West did well to stay away from a heart lead, which would have presented declarer with his fulfilling

trick at the opening gun. Declarer took the ace of diamonds, crossed to dummy with a trump, then tried the club finesse.

That lost to West, and the defenders took two diamond tricks before East switched to the jack of hearts, covered by the queen and king and taken with the ace. Declarer cleared the ace of clubs, went back to the table with a trump and tried to set up clubs with a ruff. When West showed out, declarer was forced to bow the knee.

Declarer adopted a reasonable line, but there was a better one available. As long as clubs were no worse than 4-2, an 84 percent possibility, a long club could be established in dummy, and there were just enough entries for that purpose.

Had declarer's queen of clubs been a low spot, it might have been easier to spot the winning line.

After winning the ace of diamonds declarer should draw just one round of trumps, to make sure that suit was not breaking 4-0. Once both defenders followed, declarer could cash the ace of clubs and continue with the queen. With two high trumps and the ace of hearts still as entries to the table, declarer could use two of them to ruff clubs, setting up a long card in the suit, and the third to take a heart discard on the good club.



Financial Markets  
in co-operation with  
Cairo Amman BankForeign Exchange Market Summary  
(September 2-September 6, 1991)

TRADING remained subdued while bearish dollar sentiment continued to prevail during most of the week, as the market's attention remained focused on the U.S. August employment data, which were due to be released at the end of the week. Defying expectations, the impact of the figures was muted, as they turned out better than anticipated. Nonetheless, the dollar finished the week an average of 1.8 per cent lower against major European currencies, compared to the previous week, due to technical selling Friday.

While New York closed Monday, trading activity fell to record lows, particularly in the Japanese yen, under the combined effect of the U.S. dealers' absence, and market's obsession with U.S. employment data to be released Friday. The fact that a discount rate cut following unfavourable unemployment results was becoming factored into prices accentuated the data's significance. Thus, the U.S. currency closed Monday at what turned out to be its highest closing levels at 1.7530 marks 136.95 yen and about 1.6755 dollars to the pound sterling.

By Tuesday, speculation about unfavourable employment August data, and a consequent discount rate cut, was almost unanimous. A sweeping bearish dollar sentiment thus prevailed, in the context of which the release of two favourable U.S. economic reports only served to push the dollar further down, as they were grabbed as a profitable opportunity to sell. The U.S. Purchasing Managers Index rose in 54.8 per cent, against expectations of a rise to 52.7 per cent, while construction spending rose by 1.6 per cent, against an expected 0.3 per cent. Adding to the downward pressure on the dollar, on the other hand, were a combination of other factors. A Merrill Lynch survey indicated that 60 per cent international investors polled believed their portfolios were over-weighted in dollars. On the technical side, the dollar's failure to breach resistance at 1.7440 marks sparked profit taking against European currencies, while its fall below the key psychological level of 136.00 yen ignited fears of a precipitous fall.

Wednesday witnessed a relative strengthening of the Japanese currency against the dollar and mark. The yen was benefiting from expectations of a dollar discount rate

cut, uncertainty over the stability of European currencies in the wake of the risk associated with a possible break-up of the Soviet Union, and signs that Japanese investors had started to convert dollar denominated assets into yen before entering the second half of their fiscal year next month. But despite reaching its lowest level since mid-April against the Japanese yen at 135.00 yen to the dollar, the dollar rebounded slightly after failure to breach that level. It still closed at its lowest level of the week against the yen, however, at 135.49 yen to the dollar. A base rate cut by the Bank of England by 0.5 per cent to 10.5 per cent left sterling rates unchanged as traders had been expecting such a move, and it appeared consistent with a decline in inflationary expectations in Britain.

While exchange rates were little changed Thursday in anticipation of the following day's key release, Friday took the dollar to its lowest closing levels of the week against European currencies, but for very different reasons. In contrast with expectations, August's U.S. unemployment remained unchanged at 6.8 per cent. The U.S. currency's decline was, however, sparked during New York trading when Airbus Industrie was reported to have sold dollars upon reaching its highest level of the day at 1.7410 mark, which in turn triggered technical selling, particularly after 1.7350 and 1.7300 marks were breached. Analysts maintained that the rise in August's Non-Farm Payrolls by 34,000 was encouraging but not convincing enough to resolve market uncertainties over the direction of the U.S. economy and dollar interest rates. Speculation over the Fed will going for a discount rate cut next week were further enforced by comments from the White House chief economist indicating that such a step may be required to trigger growth in the U.S. monetary aggregates.

As for this week, many traders seemed convinced that the dollar is likely to trade higher, although analysts maintained that range trading seemed in order for the foreseeable future, in the light of the market's need for consistency strong U.S. economic data to spark a convincing dollar rally. Some observers expect the dollar to trade in ranges of 1.6950 to 1.7500 marks and 135.00 to 138.00 yen during this week.

## New York Closing Rates for Major Currencies Against the U.S. Dollar

Currency	30/8/91	6/9/91	Percent Change
Sterling Pound	1.6809	1.7185	2.24%
Deutsche Mark	1.7470	1.7155	1.84%
Swiss Franc	1.5264	1.5068	1.32%
French Franc	5.9325	5.8275	1.80%
Japanese Yen	136.83	135.62	0.89%

\* USD Per STD

## Central Bank of Jordan Exchange Rate Bulletin

Currency	Bid	Offer
U.S. Dollar	.688	.690
Sterling Pound	1.1818	1.1877
Deutsche Mark	.4009	.4029
Swiss Franc	.4564	.4587
French Franc	.1180	.1186
Japanese Yen	.5067	.5092
Dutch Guilder	.3559	.3577
Swedish Krona	.1092	.1097
Italian Lira	.0537	.0540
Belgian Franc	.07947	.07957

\* Per 100

## 'Soviets look, talk like adults but in business they're in kindergarten'

ASPEN, Colorado (R) — U.S. business people may be keen to do deals in the Soviet Union, but one man with experience says there are surprises around every corner.

"The Soviets look like adults, they talk like adults but in terms of doing business, they're in kindergarten," said Norman Gershman, chairman of Mobinvest, a Soviet-American joint venture company.

"You have to assume they know nothing and then take them through every step of the way," he told Reuters.

Mobinvest's marketing arm has the rights to market in the West medical and scientific patents from the Soviet Union.

"We have a relationship with 600 think tanks in the Soviet Union," said William Eberle, a Mobinvest director, who was a trade ambassador in the Ford administration.

Mr. Eberle said the Soviet economy must be opened up to imports if Soviet business is to develop. "The domestic producers will then see what they have to do to compete," he said.

Mr. Gershman said the Soviets' lack of understanding of business and their over-eagerness leads them into traps. "I know of a cooperative that is into tapes, fisheries, medical instruments and a modelling agency. They say yes to everything," he pointed out.

But that desire to say yes to everything may be their saving grace if living conditions are to improve.

"To get to the level of development that would be comparable to the lower end in Western Europe after World War II could take decades," said Robert Reischauer, executive director of the Congressional Budget Office.

"But they've got some advantages, a highly educated people and a desire to respond to incentives," he told Reuters.

Meanwhile, a senior Soviet official said that Soviet economist Grigory Yavlinsky has support from the country's republics, or former republics, for an agreement on decentralising economic relations.

"He has the backing of all of the republics," said Arkady Volok, deputy head of the interim committee charged with running the Soviet economy since last month's coup failed.

Mr. Volok disagreed with Mr. Yavlinsky over the creation of separate republican currencies to replace the Soviet ruble.

"I believe the common economic space in our country — and Europe has been trying to achieve this for decades — should be preserved. I would insist on a common currency," he told a meeting of the Geneva-based World Economic Forum.

Mr. Yavlinsky, a radical free-market economist responsible for shaping economic strategy in the reformed Soviet Union, said Thursday his plans provided for newly independent states to create their own currencies.

Mr. Volok called for the restoration of severed trade links with the Soviet Union's former satellites in eastern and central Europe, which he said had suffered following the demise of the Soviet-led trading bloc Comecon.

Comecon — the Council for Mutual Economic Assistance — was disbanded earlier this year and its complex system of harder deals was replaced by trading in hard currency and at world market prices.

"We've done a lot of silly things in our trade with former socialist countries," Mr. Volok said in reference to the collapse in trade between Moscow and the other former Comecon members — Bulgaria, Cuba, Czechoslovakia, Hungary, Mongolia, Poland, Romania and Vietnam.

"We should have all possible forms of interaction, barter trade, clearing trade, and other forms... otherwise we will have a lot more to pay in subsidies for the unemployed," he said.

Mr. Volok, chairman of an influential Soviet Industrial Group, said prospects for foreign investment and setting up joint ventures in the Soviet Union had improved since the coup threatened to starve the country of foreign capital.

But he painted a grim picture of the overall outlook for the economy and called for accelerated privatisation and improved production incentives.

"We expect there will be a 17 per cent drop in gross national product throughout the country by the end of this year, but the market-oriented sector should record a five to six per cent increase," Mr. Volok said.

In the first six months of this year, output from Soviet state enterprises fell by 12.5 per cent, while that of cooperative and leased operations increased by 3.8 per cent.

"If winter is cold, we will face a lot of hardship. Stocks (of fuel) at power stations are only 60 per cent of what they should be," he told economic forum.

## Taiwan may restrict investments in China

TAIPEI (R) — Taiwan, already by growing economic links with China, may impose restrictions on investment by Taiwanese businessmen there, a government spokesman said.

"We are thinking of placing curbs on investment on the mainland in order to reduce the rapid growth of projects," a spokesman for the cabinet's Mainland Affairs Council, which formulates the island's policy towards China, said.

The spokesman declined to reveal details, saying the restrictions were still in the planning stage.

The Economic Daily News, a leading financial newspaper, said the government was particularly anxious to curb investments by large companies involving over \$10 million.

Economic ties between Taiwan and China, ideological and di-

plomatic enemies since the end of the Chinese civil war in 1949, have blossomed since the late 1980s as political tensions have eased.

Two-way trade through Hong Kong topped \$4 billion last year, and economists estimate Taiwanese companies have invested over \$2 billion on the mainland.

But senior Taiwanese officials have expressed fears in recent months that the island's growing economic reliance on China could make it vulnerable to political pressure or blackmail by Beijing, which still claims sovereignty over Taiwan.

Government officials scrambled last year to persuade the giant Formosa Plastics Group to drop a plan to build a petrochemical complex in China. The group has declined to say whether it will proceed with the plan.

## South Africa aims to revive M.E. trade after 17-year gap

PRETORIA (R) — South African businesses are lengthening their short list of Middle East contacts to prepare for an export offensive once countries of the region lift anti-apartheid sanctions.

Two delegations from 20 companies are due to travel to Egypt and the Gulf on Oct. 12 and 19 to revive trade after 17 years of minimal contact between Arab states and South Africa, Israel's strongest ally on the continent.

"Our time has come. Let's make it happen," South African businessman A.B. Mahomed told a conference on Middle East trade.

Speakers said South Africa had to work hard to catch up with competitors' superior knowledge of trade patterns and culture in a region grown unfamiliar, but the rewards were great.

They cited an attraction that two other areas opening to South Africa, eastern Europe and Africa, could not match — trade partners who pay in hard currency as a matter of course.

"Bearing in mind that business (in the Middle East) is done in hard currency, it becomes very nearly irresistible," said Foreign Affairs Department Director-General Neil van Heerden.

Martin Smith of the South African Foreign Trade Organisa-

tion said Egypt, the United Arab Emirates, Iran and Saudi Arabia would be the target markets.

Companies at the conference included the country's biggest, Anglo American Corporation of South Africa Ltd., industrial giant Barlow Rand Ltd., sugar and aluminium company Tongaat Hulett Ltd., food groups Premier Group Ltd. and Tiger Oats Ltd. as well as state-owned arms maker Armscor.

Experts saw food and mineral products as the most promising potential exports, with South African tourism and property the main attraction for Middle East holidaymakers and business.

"The Arabs recognise that there is money to be made in dealings with South Africa," said Geoffrey Hancock of London-based Middle East Consultants. "There is every likelihood that a discreet dialogue will already have started."

"Arab visitors have been passing through European and other capitals seeking visas and introductions to South African businessmen," Mr. Hancock said.

Mr. Smith said another Middle East attraction was the scale of its \$128 billion in imports — 15 per cent more than the former Soviet Bloc's total and 20 times larger than Nigeria's.

He said South African businessmen had been able to obtain visas for Egypt and some Gulf states for some time, and trade was possible provided certificates of origin were "amended."

"The message is 'please don't embarrass us,'" he said.

In the Middle East, South Africa has full diplomatic ties only with Israel, in a sometimes uneasy relationship cemented by decades of Third World hostility to both countries.

In 1989 South Africa did \$246 million of trade with Israel and Turkey, the only Middle East states among its top 40 trade partners. Business was heavily in Pretoria's favour.

In addition South Africa has for years exported arms and food secretly to the Gulf in return for oil, often at a barter.

Speakers said trade could boom once sanctions go, but added that the Arab League would lift curbs only when the Organisation of African Unity (OAU), taking its cue from Nelson Mandela's African National Congress (ANC), gave it the go-ahead.

The Arab League and the OAU give each other reciprocal support on the apartheid and Palestinian issues. The ANC, the main black

opposition, says economic sanctions must stay until South Africa gives blacks full political rights, something which may be several years away.

South Africa's breach with the Arab World dates from the loss of its United Nations General Assembly seat in 1974.

"I think the Middle East relationship with Pretoria will be mostly a trading relationship, and probably a very good one," said Sir Anthony Parsons, a former British ambassador to Iran.

"I can see a very substantial market for South African agricultural products in the Gulf," said Hans-Heino Kopietz, an analyst at Control Risks Information Services of London.

"South Africa also assembles vehicles, makes trucks and can offer general engineering. All this can be exported," he said.

Mr. Van Heerden cited Japan's 1970s breakthrough in Middle East markets as a model for Pretoria and urged business to establish training programmes and scholarships on Middle East subjects.

"The answer to Japanese success is that they have shown respect (for Arabs)... we have to deal with a lot of unfortunate stereotypes. Hopefully, from more knowledge respect will flow," he concluded.

## Premier tells Greeks to prepare for another year of sacrifice

ATHENS (R) — Prime Minister Constantine Mitsotakis vowed to intensify his economic austerity programme Saturday, saying Greece's crisis was deep and time was running out.

In a speech at the annual Salonika trade fair, he warned Greeks to prepare for another year of sacrifice, saying the first signs of economic recovery would be felt only in 1992.

"I must sound the alarm. The crisis we are facing has many aspects, runs very deep and the margin of time at our disposal is narrowing dangerously," he said.

His conservative government

won elections in April 1990 and launched sweeping reforms to liberalise the economy and clear the way for a free market after eight years of socialist rule.

Mr. Mitsotakis, under fire from an increasing number of critics in his own party as well as the opposition socialists, admitted some mistakes but vowed to press on with his tough programmes regardless of the political cost.

Instead he pledged 1992 would see further efforts to stop tax evasion in the vast black economy — equalling more than 35 per cent of Greece's \$55 billion gross domestic product — and launch a

## Shell Oil plans to cut up to 4,700 U.S. jobs

HOUSTON (R) — Shell Oil Co., a unit of the Royal Dutch/Shell Group, plans to lay off 10 to 15 per cent of its U.S. work force, or 3,200 to 4,700 employees, in the first major job cuts in the oil industry in five years.

"Our intention is to reduce our work force through severance packages and voluntary retirement," a Shell spokesman told Reuters.

The spokesman said low natural gas prices and the 1988 explosion of a production unit at its Norco Louisiana refinery had forced the company to review operating costs.

"Some units will be impacted more than others," he said.

Shell, which employs about 31,600 people throughout the U.S., said the cuts would take place in the next 12 to 18 months.

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## ANNOUNCEMENT

Embassy of India, Jabal Amman, First Circle, Amman (tel: 637262; 622098) is compiling a list of Jordanian nationals who underwent training in India under the Indian Technical & Economic Cooperation scheme (ITEC). All Jordanian ITEC beneficiaries are requested to kindly contact the embassy urgently and give following information:

- (1) Full name
- (2) Present contact address & telephone Nos. (both official and residential)
- (3) Details of (a) Name of Institution attended & type of training received in India (b) Duration of training.

## Qatar signs industrial port contract with Italian company



Constantine Mitsotakis second round of painful social security reforms.

DUBAI (R) — The Gulf state of Qatar has signed a contract with an Italian firm for the construction of a port to serve an industrial area processing gas from the world's biggest single natural gas field.

The Gulf News Agency said an agreement with the Italian firm Condotta d'Acqua was signed in Doha Saturday for the design and construction of Ras Laffan port, to be completed in five years.

The emirate has just started tapping the North Field, which holds more than 380 trillion cubic feet of gas, to increase its power generation and fertiliser output.

Qatar's Interior Minister and Acting Oil Minister Abdullah Bin Khalifa Al Thani, who signed the port contract for Qatar, was quoted as saying the port would cost "hundreds of millions of dollars."

Qatar plans to develop an industrial area at Ras Laffan with plans for gas liquefaction, fertilisers and petrochemicals, Sheikh Abdullah said.

Qatarqas, a joint venture between Qatar General Petroleum Corporation and British Petroleum, Total-CFP of France and Japan's Mitsui and Marubeni has signed a letter of intent with Japan's Chubu Power Company to sell four million tonnes a year of liquefied natural gas (LNG) for 25 years starting in 1997.

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**ADVENTURES OF TENNESSEE BUCK**  
Show: 3:30, 6:30, 8:30 p.m.



# Macedonians vote on independence; fighting in Croatia subsides

**BELGRADE, Yugoslavia (AP)** — Macedonians streamed to the polls Sunday to vote on independence, pushing the fragmenting Yugoslav Federation further apart.

Fighting in the war-torn secessionist Republic of Croatia appeared to be subsiding, with only scattered incidents reported.

The head of the collective federal presidency, Croat Stipe Mesic, said he would ask the army Sunday to withdraw to barracks in Croatia. The presidency nominally commands the armed forces.

Mr. Mesic spoke after returning from an international peace conference in the Hague, attended by the 12 European Community (EC) foreign ministers, the leaders of Yugoslavia's six republics and federal leaders.

"If the army doesn't react, I will declare that the army's top leaders are acting irregularly, and that means a military coup," Mr. Mesic told reporters in Zagreb Saturday.

The conference agreed that a ceasefire is essential for peace negotiations "to proceed in a peaceful environment," and said no forceful changes of "any border" would be recognised.

Macedonians were voting on whether their republic becomes an independent state, with the option to join a future Yugoslav alliance of sovereign states.

Macedonia, the poorest of Yugoslavia's six republics, is the

third republic to hold such a vote. Slovenia and Croatia formally declared independence June 25, based on the overwhelming popular votes in favour of such a move in their republics.

Lines formed at polling stations in villages around Macedonia soon after polls opened at 7:00 a.m. (0500 GMT).

Macedonia's 1.4 million voters are expected to vote overwhelmingly for independence.

The Nova Makedonija daily in the Macedonian capital Skopje published a poll Sunday showing 84.54 per cent of the electorate in favour.

Macedonian President Kiro Gligorov said Macedonia's sovereignty was "not directed against anyone, but is simply a support to establishing a new relationship in Yugoslavia, the Balkans and Europe."

Results were not expected before Tuesday. A majority of 51 per cent of ballots cast is needed to give the mandate to work toward independence. The vote is valid if 51 per cent of voters cast ballots.

Macedonia's population of about 2 million is mostly orthodox. About 20 per cent are ethnic Albanians, who are mainly Muslims.

The independence declarations in Slovenia and Croatia prompted a military intervention in Slovenia and touched off ethnic fighting in Croatia that has claimed more than 300 lives.

A truce has held since early July in Slovenia, where about 70 people died in fighting between Slovene and federal forces. The military is withdrawing from that republic.

In Croatia, fighting has raged between rebel Serbs opposed to Croatia's secession and Croatian forces. The army has been drawn into fighting, the military says, only to separate the warring sides.

But Croatia maintains the well-equipped army backs the Serb insurgents, helping them grab about 14 of Croatian territory which they vow will never be part of an independent Croatia.

Many of Croatia's 600,000 Serbs — 12 per cent of its 4.75 million people — want to remain in Yugoslavia.

Croatia says it will not cede an inch of its territory.

Fighting largely subsided in the troubled Dalmatian hinterland Saturday, following an agreement by local Serb leaders to join the army and Croats in observing an EC-brokered ceasefire there.

But there was scattered shooting and mortar fire in the troubled Slavonia region of east Croatia.

The Croatian Defence Ministry said the federal air force rocketed an aerodrome at the Croatian stronghold of Osijek in Slavonia, 230 kilometres east of Zagreb. There was no immediate comment from the army.



A Croatian volunteer meets his girlfriend during a lull in fighting

## Non-Aligned Movement calls for U.N. reform

**ACCRA (R)** — The Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) has called for expansion of the United Nations' elite Security Council to put more power in Third World hands.

A declaration after a four-day NAM foreign ministers' conference in the Ghanaian capital Accra also endorsed political pluralism, giving official weight to the multi-party issue for the first time since the movement was founded three decades ago.

"The present membership of the Security Council should be reviewed with a view to reflecting the increased membership of the United Nations, and promoting more equitable and balanced representation of the members of the United Nations," the declaration said.

"Reform of the organisation is of cardinal importance to member countries of the movement."

The Security Council, which gives permanent status to the United States, the Soviet Union, China, Britain and France, holds a veto on decisions made by the world body's General Assembly.

The call reflected a shift in focus from East-West tensions to the Gulf between the rich North and poor South as the 103-member group strives for a role after the end of the cold war which inspired it.

Diplomatic sources said the move was proposed mainly by

major Third World powers like India, Brazil and Indonesia, which hold great regional sway and want a bigger role on the world stage.

"The want-to-be world powers are very dissatisfied with the U.N. where they are not permanent members of the Security Council," one Western diplomat said.

The declaration also hit out at double standards in implementing U.N. decisions.

"Had the international community, represented by the Security Council, applied the same criteria, the same political will and the same standards of international legitimacy as they did in the Gulf war, the question of Palestine could have been resolved," it said, calling for full implementation of all U.N. resolutions.

NAM, which opted not to change its name despite the end of the cold war, applauded a world groundswell towards multi-party reforms in what diplomats saw as a sign of growing moderation in a former bastion of anti-Western thought.

Noting the "wish of people all over the world for political pluralism," it said Non-Aligned governments should sustain the trend "within the context of their cultural and human traditions and heritage."

Diplomats said the title of the main declaration, "A world in transition: From Diminishing confrontation towards increasing cooperation," showed NAM's new resolve to increase dialogue with the rich world as well as between developing countries.

The movement, set up in 1961 to tread an independent path between two superpowers, has always been a major forum for articulating Third World concerns.

The report said political stability could not survive in conditions of poverty and vowed to strengthen international economic cooperation to aid growth in developing countries.

It also stressed the need for action on human rights, global disarmament, environmental protection and drug abuse.

## Column 800000

### Policeman finds woman's foot after accident

**SEOUL (R)** — A South Korean policeman stumbled on a severed foot while on night patrol and his prompt action saved a crash victim from life as a cripple. A check of hospitals in the southwestern city of Chongju led to Kim Kyung-Sook, 24, who lost her right foot when her motorbike crashed into a car, the domestic Yonhap News Agency reported Saturday. Police wrapped the foot in a towel and delivered it to the hospital in time for surgeons to sew it back on, the agency said.

### Turkish baths for tramps who upset tourists

**ANKARA (R)** — Turkey's major resort town of Antalya plans to give snelly tramps who offend tourists a good scrub and clean clothes. Vagrants in the Mediterranean City will be rounded up and taken to the public baths then given new clothes before being allowed back onto the streets, an official has told reporters.

### Electricity comes to legendary birthplace of god of light

**DELOS, Greece (AP)** — This island in the Aegean Sea, the legendary birthplace of Apollo, the god of light, switched on to electricity Friday. The power, brought by underwater cable from the nearby island of Mykonos, was turned on at a ceremony attended by Deputy Premier Tzannis Tzannetakis and other officials, the Athens News Agency reported. Delos has an area of five square kilometres and is the smallest island in the Cycladic Chain. Thousands of tourists visit its ancient sanctuary of Apollo but it is inhabited only by a handful of museum guards and the staff of a small hotel for archaeologists. It was once the political and religious centre of the Aegean, with a large population and with thousands of pilgrims visiting the oracle of Apollo. Apollo is one of the 12 Olympian gods of the ancient Greeks. Their chief god was Zeus (later Jupiter in Roman mythology) and they are believed to live on the peak of Mt. Olympus in central Greece.

### Benetton apologises for new-born baby poster

**LONDON (R)** — International fashion retailer Benetton apologised Wednesday for shocking Britons with an advertisement showing a new-born baby but said it was surprised by the reaction. Britain's advertising watchdog, the Advertising Standards Authority (ASA), said it had received more than 800 complaints about the posters, displayed in London, showing a new-born baby girl covered in blood with the umbilical cord still attached. "We are very astonished and we are sorry to have created such a big problem," Laura Pollini, Benetton's communications director, told a television interviewer from the firm's headquarters in Italy. "We accept the criticism and the reaction of the English people but we used this image in 50 countries of the world," she said. The ASA said Benetton had displayed "a conspicuous disregard for the sensitivities of the public" in using the picture, which is also being used in U.S. and Italian magazines. Benetton has attracted criticism — or publicity, some analysts say — with earlier advertisements.

### Actor convicted of dangerous driving

**DUBLIN, Ireland (AP)** — Actor John Hurt was banned from driving for one year and fined 225 Irish pounds (\$344) after pleading guilty Wednesday to drunken driving and dangerous driving. Hurt, 51, was charged after his car struck a lamppost on the night of April 18. Hurt's lawyer, Gerry Danaher, said the actor "had been at a number of charity functions where a degree of hospitality was pressed on him. He accepted more foolishly than wisely." Hurt recently moved into Ballintubber House, near Athy in County Kildare with his American wife Jo and their baby son, Alexander. A British stage actor, Hurt is also widely known for film and television roles including the lead in "The Naked Civil Servant," for which he won a U.S. Emmy Award in 1976, "Candide" in 1981 and "The Elephant Man."

## Mixed feelings as Leningrad becomes St. Petersburg again

**ST. PETERSBURG, Soviet Union (R)** — The people of Russia's second city had mixed feelings Saturday after waking up for the first time in 77 years in St. Petersburg.

Many residents welcomed the scrapping of Leningrad as underscoring the break with the Communist past. Others questioned the need for such a radical rejection of history.

"It is another step to help us recover our pride in our city," said 32-year-old Anatoly Kulikov.

But some older city residents were cooler about the move.

A teacher in his 60s who did not wish to be named said: "I can understand our youth wanting this but we cannot get away from our own history. We can change too much. Lenin was part of our past."

The city, which has a population of five million, was named Leningrad after Vladimir Lenin, the Communist state's founder, after his death in 1924.

Russia's reformist leadership decreed Friday it could revert immediately to its old name of St. Petersburg in line with the result of a referendum held in the city on June 12.

The referendum gave popular backing by a modest margin to a proposal by the radical council leaders to restore the name given the city after its founding in 1703 by Tsar Peter the Great.

The name-change was another blow to Lenin's once-revered memory in a country where the communism he espoused has now been discredited and his own role is increasingly criticised.

Some older residents had clung to Leningrad as a tribute to the 900-day Nazi German siege of the city went through during World War II. Proponents of the change argued the Battle of Stalingrad was still honoured, although that city had long since been renamed Volgograd.

But Kulikov, an engineer, said

the decision to switch immediately back to the old name had been inevitable after the failure of last month's headline Communist coup against President Mikhail Gorbachev.

Radical leaders on the city council played a big part in defeating the coup by organising street protests and, after Moscow, effectively opening a second front of resistance.

Leading Communists led the coup and the party was widely seen as having backed it.

There were few immediate external signs of the name-change on the streets of the city, though thousands of signs will have to be torn down.

Suena, a daily newspaper which has long ceased referring to Leningrad at all, welcomed the Russian parliamentary president's unanimous decision with the front-page banner headline "Vivat, St. Petersburg."

Soviet news agency (TASS) switched instantly to St. Petersburg. And at Moscow's Sheremetyevo Airport, flights to the city were called under its new name.

Westward-looking Tsar Peter built the city as a "window on the West" and a seaport on the Baltic. He hired French and Italian architects to construct a graceful Western-style city of palaces, wide boulevards and canals.

Pronounced "Sankt Peterburg" in Russian, it became one of the great capitals of Europe and was Russia's capital for two centuries.

The city was renamed Petrograd in 1914 because of popular war-time objections to the German sound of St. Petersburg.

A taxi driver felt it would have been better to have taken back the name of Petrograd — literally Peter's city.

"It doesn't really matter," he said. "There's still no vodka to drink or food to eat so what's the difference?"

## 'Soviets had 3,000 troops in Vietnam'

**MOSCOW (AP)** — The Soviet Union sent 3,000 troops to Vietnam during the U.S. involvement there, according to the first account in the Soviet press about the secret military action.

In 1965, Soviet soldiers shot down the first U.S. planes lost in Vietnam, the magazine Eko Flanety reported.

The Soviet Defence Ministry previously has acknowledged that Soviet advisers served in Vietnam and that 13 were killed. But no details of their activities have been published in the Soviet Union before this, the Soviet news agency (TASS) reported Saturday.

TASS said the magazine's account was based on interviews with those who carried out Soviet policy in Vietnam in the late 1960s and early 1970s, including Ilya Shcherbakov, the Soviet ambassador to Vietnam from 1964-1974.

The article was written by a former TASS correspondent who reported from Vietnam during the war, Alexander Minayev.

Mr. Shcherbakov said the Soviet government was very restrained in its attitude towards the conflict between Communist North Vietnam and the U.S.-backed South.

"But the Tonkin incident confronted Nikita Khrushchev with a dilemma," the article said, referring to U.S. retaliation in 1964 for an alleged attack by North Vietnam on American ships in the Gulf of Tonkin. The incident prompted the United States to greatly escalate its troop presence and involvement in the war.

"On the one hand, North Vietnam, a Socialist country, had suffered from air strikes and shelling from the sea. On the other, the shock of the Caribbean crisis was still quite fresh in his memory," it said, a reference to the 1962 Cuban missile crisis.

"Khrushchev decided to send a new ambassador to Hanoi to clarify the situation," and Mr. Shcherbakov got the job, the article said.

The magazine said then-Soviet Premier Alexei Kosygin warned Mr. Shcherbakov to "keep both eyes open" to avert Soviet involvement in the war when he visited the country in 1965.

By that time, however, Mr. Khrushchev was out of the power and had been replaced by Leonid Brezhnev, who according to Mr. Shcherbakov favoured more direct involvement to aid North Vietnam.

Soviet aid began flowing to North Vietnam in early 1965, the magazine said. In August 1965, Soviet forces shot down the first U.S. planes. But after 1966, it said no Soviet troops directly participated in combat because the Vietnamese forces had been trained to handle the Soviet equipment.

## Aquino battles to save U.S. bases pact

**MANILA (R)** — President Corason Aquino, battling to save a military bases treaty with the United States, appealed to the Philippine Senate Sunday to listen to the clamour of the people and ratify the agreement.

Speaking in a nationwide radio broadcast after a group of senators threatened to kill the accord, Mrs. Aquino urged Filipinos to join her in a rally at the Senate Tuesday to persuade the senators to approve the treaty.

Nine senators said the treaty was doomed after signing a resolution rejecting the pact which would allow U.S. forces to continue using Subic Bay Naval Base for another 10 years.

The 23-member Senate must ratify the treaty with a two-thirds majority before the current lease expires on Sept. 16. Only eight votes are needed to sink the accord and 16 to approve it.

Washington has said it will start withdrawing its forces if the treaty is not ratified by Sept. 16, ending an American presence that has lasted for almost a century.

It will not renegotiate the pact if the Senate rejects the treaty, Ambassador Frank Wisner said Friday.

Mrs. Aquino said, "on Tuesday... I will go to them and tell them, 'Mr. Senators, this is the plea of our people.'"

"Vox Populi, Vox Dei (the voice of the people is the voice of God). Let us listen to our people," she added.

Opinion polls say up to two-thirds of the country's 60 million people back retention of the bases.

Officials say they hope to assemble up to a million people at the rally for the treaty, portrayed by the government as vital for the heavily indebted country's economic recovery.

## WORLD NEWS IN BRIEF

### Honecker may leave for exile in China

**BERLIN (AP)** — Former East German Communist leader Erich Honecker may choose to move to China from his exile home in the Soviet Union, a newspaper report said Saturday. Germany demands that Moscow hand the 79-year-old Stalinist back to face criminal charges, and Soviet authorities are studying the German request. The German government thought the collapse of Soviet communism after failure of the hardline coup Moscow improved chances that Mr. Honecker could be brought back for trial, but the old East German leader may still have protectors in the Communist government in Peking. The Bild Am Sonntag newspaper quoted Mr. Honecker's lawyer, Friedrich Wolff, as saying Mr. Honecker is in principle free to leave the Soviet Union as he wishes. "China is still always open for him. It would be the last solution, but it would make it possible for all sides to save face," Mr. Wolff was quoted as saying.

### Major gets another poll boost

**LONDON (R)** — An opinion poll gave British Prime Minister John Major's ruling Conservatives slim lead over the Labour opposition — the fourth poll to reverse an earlier trend that had put Labour consistently in front. The National Opinion Poll (NOP) survey for the Independent on Sunday newspaper put support for the Conservatives at 41 per cent of the electorate, two points ahead of Labour. The government's improved standing has fuelled speculation that Mr. Major may call an early general election, but two other Sunday newspaper polls of Conservative politicians and officials found few wanted to rush into a ballot. An election must be held by mid-July next year. Political commentators say Mr. Major is likely to wait for sustained evidence that Britain's economic recession is lifting, and for a more substantial opinion poll lead, before taking his chances at the ballot box. Most Conservatives questioned for polls in the Sunday Telegraph and the Sunday Times were against a November election. The NOP findings chimed in with another survey published Friday which had the Conservatives of 41 per cent, one point ahead of Labour.

### Thatcher told to stay out of campaign

**LONDON (R)** — A majority of Conservative politicians want former Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher to stay in the background while they fight the next general election and not upstage John Major, a parliamentary opinion poll shows. In a Gallup survey for the Sunday Telegraph newspaper of around 100 Conservative politicians, 65 said they wanted Mrs. Thatcher to have only a minor role in the election campaign, or none at all. Britain's "iron lady" has caused consternation among some colleagues by maintaining a high profile while her successor was trying to build his own reputation at home and abroad. Her decision to visit some of the same destinations as Mr. Major when both were on foreign trips recently had some commentators wondering whether she was trying to steal his thunder.

### Taiwanese march to demand U.N. seat

**TAIPEI (R)** — Chanting Taiwanese protesters confronted riot police in central Taipei Sunday as about 7,000 people marched to demand that Taiwan rejoin the United Nations as an independent country. The demonstrators, soaked by driving rain, surged against iron and barbed wire barricades blocking their route to the presidential office. Some hurled rocks at hundreds of riot policemen backed by water cannon. State radio said two policemen were injured, but no arrests or serious clashes were reported. "Applying to rejoin the U.N. is a way for Taiwan to rejoin the international community. Taiwan must assert itself," said James Chen, deputy secretary-general of the main opposition Democratic Progressive Party, which supported the march. Taipei was ousted from the United Nations in 1971 in favour of China, which views Taiwan as renegade province. Public pressure for Taiwan to rejoin has grown since North and South Korea said this year they would seek separate U.N. seats.

### Indian rebels kill hostage, mediator

**NEW DELHI (AP)** — An oil company engineer kidnapped by guerrillas in Assam was found dead Sunday, and gunmen killed an Amnesty International official who was bargaining for his release, news reports said. The guerrillas have threatened to kill hostages after the government refused to release jailed comrades of the rebels. The body of T.S. Raju of the state-owned Oil and Natural Gas Commission was found near a railroad track in the northeastern state of Assam, the reports said. The fate of seven other hostages was unknown. Mr. Raju and 13 others, including a Soviet engineer, were abducted on July 1 by the United Liberation Front of Assam, a guerrilla group fighting for the independence of the hilly state rich in oil and tea. On Sunday, unidentified gunmen killed Bipul Mahanta, an Indian who headed the Assam branch of the human rights organisation Amnesty International, at his home in Guwahati, United News of India reported.

### 7 die in Philippine volcanic mudflows

**MANILA (R)** — Seven people were killed and four suffered burns when steaming mudflows from a Philippine volcano engulfed a town, sending hundreds of terrified villagers rushing from their homes, officials said Sunday. Mudflows up to 10 feet (three metres) high swamped 14 villages in Bacolor town, Pangasinan Saturday night, burying 800 houses, police superintendent Ramsey Ocampo said. A town councillor said several persons were reported missing after the mudflows from Mount Pinatubo volcano struck. The Philippines News Agency said hundreds of screaming villagers ran to higher ground when the mudflows hit the town. Many climbed trees and the rooftops of their homes to escape the avalanche of mud, rocks and other debris loosened by heavy rains from Pinatubo's slopes. Relief officials said nine people living in cramped evacuation centres around Pinatubo died of pneumonia and diarrhoea Thursday and Friday.

### Hoxha's widow under house arrest

**VIENNA, Austria (AP)** — An Albanian newspaper reported Saturday that the widow of Albania's late Communist dictator Enver Hoxha was under house arrest. The report by the Democratic Party newspaper, Rilindja Demokratike, could not be independently confirmed, according to a journalist reached by telephone in the Albanian capital of Tirana. The newspaper said Nexhmije Hoxha was placed under house arrest Thursday. Mrs. Hoxha was summoned last month to Albania's Headquarters of Investigation and questioned on allegations that her family had abused privileges for 47 years. General investigator Kristaq Nijehela Saturday told a TV interviewer that only two people had been arrested, according to the journalist who declined to be identified. Two former leaders associated with Mr. Hoxha, Manush Myftiu and Kimo Buxheli, were detained a week ago. Both are former politburo members and held other high office.

### Bush defends Supreme Court nominee

**WASHINGTON (R)** — President George Bush has defended U.S. Supreme Court nominee Clarence Thomas on the eve of his Senate confirmation hearings, saying the beleaguered judge embodied "the promise of equality and opportunity in America."

In a radio address Mr. Bush said he knew the Democratic-controlled Senate would maintain its standards of dignity and scrutiny when it opened hearings on the nomination Tuesday and he urged all Americans to give Thomas the same respect. The Boston Globe reported Saturday that Thomas made more than 20 trips at government expense in the 1980s that appear unrelated to his responsibilities as head of a Reagan administration agency. Mr. Bush nominated Thomas, a black conservative circuit court judge, to replace retiring associate Supreme Court Justice Thurgood Marshall, a black liberal. The nomination has generated growing opposition from groups opposed to Mr. Thomas' conservative views.

## Amnesty to target kidnappers, other non-governmental abuses

**TOKYO (R)** — Amnesty International, scourge of repressive governments, says it now plans to denounce killings, hostage-taking and other human rights abuses committed by political opposition movements.

In a statement issued Saturday after a week-long meeting of its governing council in Yokohama, Japan, the London-based human rights organisation said it hoped this change to its brief would help thousands more victims of abuse every year.

"We continue to hold governments directly responsible for the protection of human rights under international law and violations by governments will remain the focus of our work," the group said.

"But we must confront the atrocities committed by groups like the LTTE 'Tamil Tigers' in Sri Lanka and Sendero Luminoso

(the Maoist 'Shining Path' guerrillas) in Peru."

Amnesty said that, just as it neither supported nor opposed any government, it took no position on the resort to force by opposition groups or on their political agendas.

"Our sole concern is a humanitarian one — we're concerned about the victims," it said.

The council meeting, bringing together representatives of 70 countries, stressed Amnesty's core mission remained to seek the release of prisoners of conscience, to work for fair trials for political prisoners, and to end torture and executions.

In future, though, the organisation would also target abuses by armed opposition groups not just in Sri Lanka and Peru but also in the Philippines, Turkey and some Middle Eastern countries.